SUNDAY
January 4, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 8.00

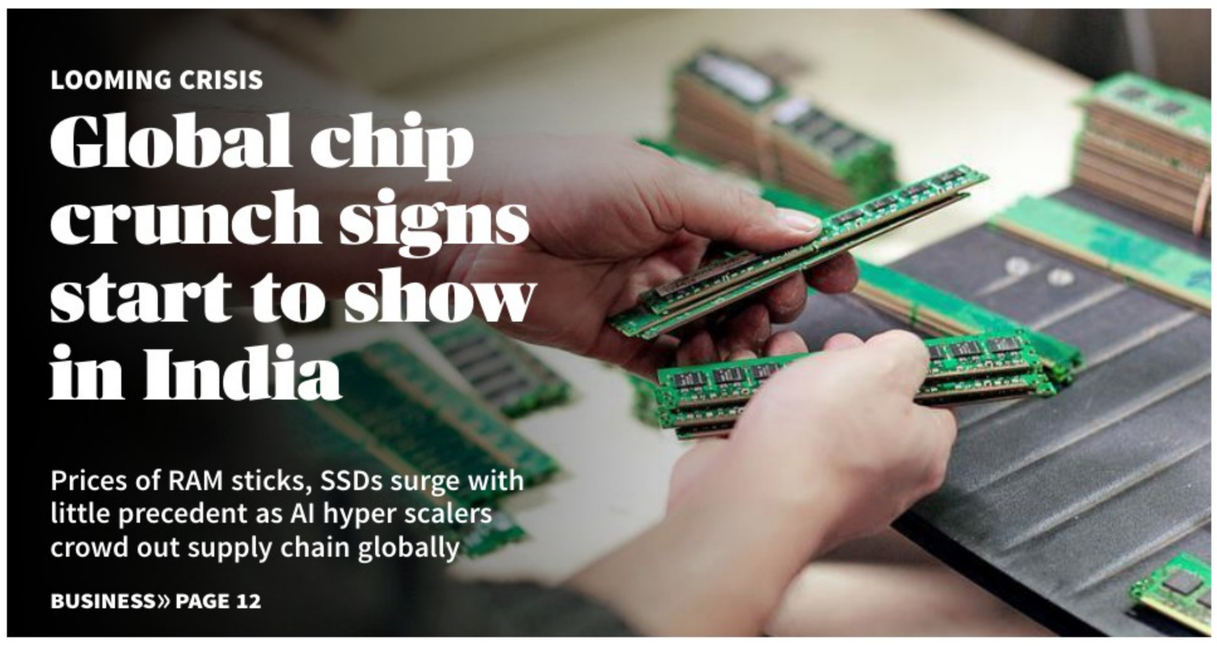
THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

Vol. 57 • No. 1

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

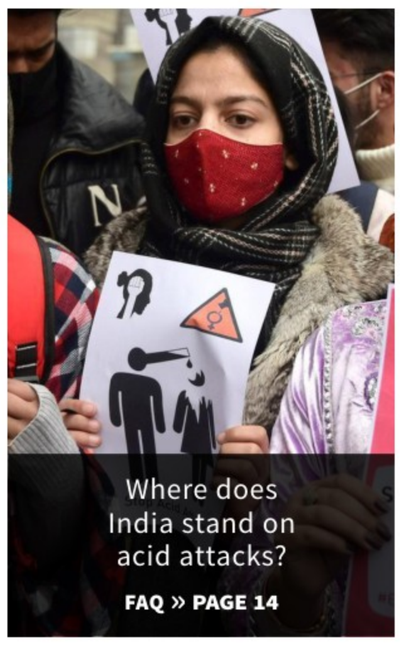


LOOMING CRISIS

Global chip crunch signs start to show in India

Prices of RAM sticks, SSDs surge with little precedent as AI hyper scalers crowd out supply chain globally

BUSINESS» PAGE 12



Where does India stand on acid attacks?

FAQ » PAGE 14

USDP: Myanmar's junta in civilian clothing

PROFILES » PAGE 15

Gill to lead the Men in Blue in ODIs against New Zealand

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

CM warns of stir seeking repeal of VB-G RAM G Act

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that on the lines of the farmers' protest that compelled the Centre to withdraw farm laws, a protest would be launched to demand repeal of the new Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) and restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA). » PAGE 7

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

U.S. forces capture Maduro after strikes on Venezuela

President of the South American nation, his wife aboard a U.S. warship headed to New York to be prosecuted, says President Trump; U.S. to run the country, tap into its vast oil reserves, he says

Associated Press
CARACAS

The United States captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and took him out of the country on Saturday after an extraordinary nighttime operation that was accompanied by a flurry of strikes following months of escalating pressure on the oil-rich South American nation.

Claiming that U.S. presence was already in place in Venezuela, President Donald Trump said hours after the attack that his government would run Caracas, at least temporarily, and would tap its vast oil reserves to sell "large amounts" to other countries. "We are going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper, and judicious transition," Mr. Trump said at a news conference.

Taken from home: An image posted by U.S. President Donald Trump on Truth Social on Saturday shows Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro blindfolded aboard the *USS Iwo Jima*. AFP

Mr. Trump said Mr. Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were aboard the U.S. warship *Iwo Jima* and headed to New York, where they will face prosecution. U.S. Attorney-General Pam Bondi said the couple would "soon face the full wrath of American justice on American soil".

While the legal authority for the attack was not immediately clear, Mr. Maduro's government accused the U.S. of attacking civilian and military installations, called it an "imperialist attack" and urged citizens to take to the streets.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 15 & 16

Bangladeshi pacer dropped from KKR on BCCI instructions

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Amid a strain in ties between India and Bangladesh, the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Saturday announced that Bangladeshi fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman has been dropped from its squad ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) following instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"Kolkata Knight Riders confirms that BCCI/IPL... has instructed it to release Mustafizur Rahman from the squad ahead of the upcoming IPL season. The release has been carried out following due process and consultations, on the instructions of BCCI," said the KKR in a press note.

Mustafizur Rahman

The move triggered strong reactions from several quarters. The sports adviser to the interim government of Bangladesh has instructed authorities to stop IPL telecast in Bangladesh.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

Hindu man dies 3 days after attack in Bangladesh

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/NEW DELHI

A Hindu businessman, who was hacked and set on fire three days ago, died on Saturday in Bangladesh, a minority faith group leader said.

Khokon Chandra Das, 50, was assaulted near Keurbhanga Bazar in Shariatpur district, about 100 km south of Dhaka, on Wednesday night while returning home after closing his shop. This is the fifth death of a person from the Hindu community since December 2025, and radical groups in Bangladesh are visibly trying to intimidate the minority faiths, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council spokesman Kajol Debnath said.

Did fatal bullet come from Cong. MLA's gunman in Ballari?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka police have *prima facie* concluded that the bullet that killed Congress worker Rajashekhar, 28, in the clashes in Ballari City on January 1, was fired from a firearm of one of the gunmen of Ballari City Congress MLA Nara Bharath Reddy, said police sources.

Casing recovered

During the *post-mortem* of the deceased conducted at Ballari Medical College and Research Centre (BMCRC) doctors recovered the casing of the bullet lodged in his body.

The police recovered five firearms of gunmen present during altercation

The Ballari Police have already recovered five firearms of gunmen present during the altercation on Thursday night.

The sources said that the police had *prima facie* found a match between the bullet casing found in the deceased's body and a firearm of one of the bodyguards of Mr. Bharath Reddy.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Bull run

Straining at the leash: Youth jostle to grip a bull during the first jallikattu (bull-taming sport) of the season at Thatchankurichi village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu on Saturday. Jallikattu is a major attraction with bulls being trained for months together. R. VENGADESH

Kerala MLA sentenced to 3 years in prison for 'evidence tampering'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a setback to former Kerala Transport Minister and ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) legislator Antony Raju, a court in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday sentenced him to three years' imprisonment for tampering with evidence related to a drug seizure case.

The Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Nedumangadu, on Saturday found him guilty of forging and planting material evidence following the drug seizure case booked in 1990.

Although Mr. Raju, a leader of the Janadhipathya Kerala Congress, an LDF ally, was granted bail and one month's time to appeal against the verdict, he will be disqualified as an MLA on account of his conviction.

Under the Representation of the People Act, membership of the Legislative Assembly will be terminated if a court sentences a member to two years' imprisonment or more.

The verdict comes 19 years after the chargesheet was filed against him. Mr. Raju was a junior lawyer appearing in the 1990 drug case involving an Australian national, Andrew Salvatore. It was alleged that Mr. Raju tampered with the Australian national's undergarment, which was seized as material evidence. An FIR was filed in the evidence tampering case in 1994.

Antony Raju

The court sentenced the first accused in the case, court clerk K.S. Jose, and Mr. Raju to six months' imprisonment for criminal conspiracy, three years and a fine of ₹10,000 for destruction of evidence, and three years for fabricating false evidence. All sentences will run concurrently, the judge stated in the order. The court also rejected the prosecution's request to shift the case to the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court.

Slew of charges

The court found both the accused guilty of offences under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 193 (fabricating false evidence), 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant), and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). They were also slapped with a penalty of ₹10,000 each. A fine of ₹5,000 and one-year imprisonment was additionally slapped on first accused Jose under Section 409 of IPC.

T.N. announces assured pension scheme for State govt. staff

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday announced the new Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for State government employees. Under the new arrangement, State government employees will be provided with an assured pension equal to 50% of their last-drawn basic pay.

The State government made the announcement after taking into consideration a report submitted recently to the Chief Minister by a three-member Pension Committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayat Raj) Gagandeep Singh Bedi, which studied various pension schemes and arrived at a suitable model for Tamil Nadu.

Under TAPS, employees will have to contribute 10% of their basic pay to the pension fund, while the additional fund required to provide the assured pension will be borne by the State government.

Pensioners will be given dearness allowance (DA) hikes twice a year on a par with serving government employees. In the event of death of a pensioner, 60% of the pension being received by the pensioner will be paid as family pension to the nominated beneficiary. At the time of retirement or in the event of death during service, government employees will be provided with a gratuity not exceeding ₹25 lakh, based on the tenure of their service. After the implementation of TAPS, employees who retire without completing the qualifying service period required to receive pension will be provided with a minimum pension.

Employees who retired after joining service under the Contributory Pension Scheme without drawing a pension in the intervening period before the implementation of TAPS will be granted a "special compassionate pension".

T.N.'s package

The Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme is set to provide State government employees with an assured pension equal to **50% of their last-drawn basic pay**

SOME KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- 10% employee contribution to pension fund
- Additional funding to be borne by State government
- Dearness Allowance hike twice a year, on par with serving employees
- 60% family pension to nominee after pensioner's death
- Gratuity up to ₹25 lakh on retirement or death in service

As Tamil Nadu's financial position strengthens, the demands of all sections of society will be fulfilled

M.K. STALIN
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

State's contribution

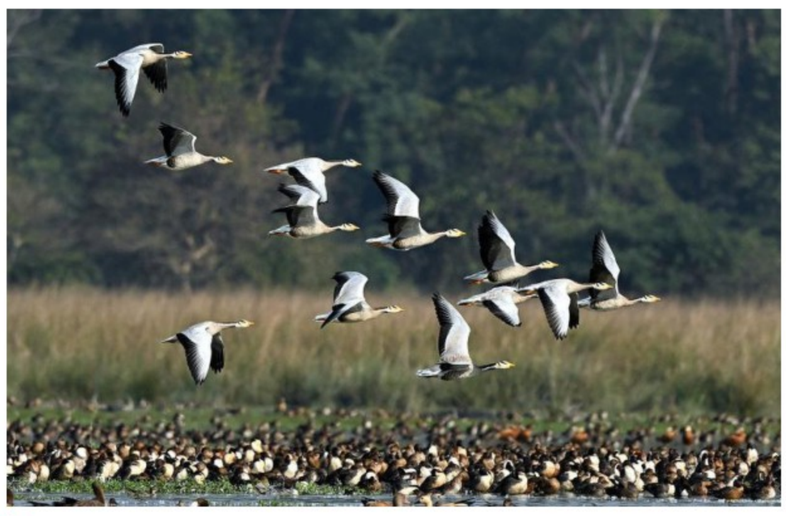
With the introduction of TAPS, the Tamil Nadu government will have to incur an additional expenditure of ₹13,000 crore towards pension funds. In addition, the State will have to contribute approximately ₹11,000 crore every year as its annual contribution, an amount that is likely to increase based on the salary of employees.

Before making the announcement, Mr. Stalin held discussions with Minister for Public Works E.V. Velu, Minister for Finance Thangam Thennarasu, Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam, and Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) T. Udhayachandran at the Secretariat.

Later, in a post on X, the Chief Minister said, "The Dravidian model government has fulfilled a 20-year-long demand of the government employees through TAPS. It has once again been demonstrated that the DMK government will always remain true to the people who placed their trust in us."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

Show-starter: Escaping the harsh winter in Central Asia and Siberia, a little citrine wagtail, the first visitor this season, arrives in biodiversity-rich Assam. RITU RAJ KONWAR



Pasture hunting: In the iconic V-formation, a flock of bar-headed geese flies over a wetland in Assam. The birds will stay in the State till April.

Hungry guest: A black-necked stork searches for food in a wetland in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district.

Roosting haven: Northern pintails at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a popular winter destination for migratory birds from Siberia, Central Asia, and the Himalayas.

A winter getaway in Assam's wetlands

To escape the freezing cold winters of the Siberian, Tibetan and European landscapes, every year several migratory birds flock to wetlands and Ramsar sites in Assam; this year too, these winged guests have made their way to birding spots in the northeastern State, boosting its biodiversity and ecotourism initiatives

Ritu Raj Konwar
rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

With winter, tiny moving specks appearing on the sky over Assam mark the arrival of avian guests that flock to riverbeds, wetlands, and natural and artificial reservoirs. To escape the biting cold of Siberian, Tibetan, and European regions, these water birds spread their wings each year in search of warmer winter homes across the globe. Assam's wetlands and Ramsar sites welcome these migratory birds, which not only enhance the northeastern State's biodiversity but also support its ecotourism initiatives.

This year too, vibrant migratory species such as white-fronted geese, pied avocets, greylag geese, ruddy shelducks, falcated ducks, ferruginous pochards, northern pintails, great crested grebes, common pochards, and bar-headed geese – known for their high-altitude migratory flight – have arrived to roost in the State's wetlands.

Despite threats posed by unsustainable development activities to waterbodies and wildlife reserves, Assam remains an important seasonal hub for migratory birds.

Some of the popular birding destinations in the State include Deepor Beel in Kamrup Metropolitan district; Maguri Motapung Beel in Tinsukia; Pani Dihing Beel in Sivasagar; the lakes within the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve; and the largest of all, Son Beel in Karimganj district.

Apart from these regular stopovers, the winter visitors also explore new and picturesque locations each year. Assam has long hosted these long-distance travellers with sustained conservation efforts, which continue to be strengthened to protect their habitats.

Friends of a feather: A flock of glossy ibis takes a dip in Lake Deepor Beel, a Ramsar site, near Guwahati.

Madiwala lake facelift nears end; desilting plan stalled

The lake was handed over to the BBMP in 2023 from the Forest Dept., and was last desilted nearly 18 years ago; beautification works are under way but there is no order to begin desilting, say officials

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Rejuvenation efforts at Madiwala lake are nearing completion; however it looks like they are restricted to beautifying the waterbody like building walkways, a park, and gazebo, etc., rather than desilting it.

The bund was breached in 2016 which led to flooding, indicating reduction in its water retention capacity, making desilting all the more important. However, a proposal to desilt the lake, drafted last year, has been gathering dust.

The lake, spanning 276 acres, according to the K.B. Koliwada report, connects more than six lakes in the southern and southeastern parts of the city. The lake was handed over to the BBMP in 2023 from the Forest Department, and it was last desilted nearly 18 years ago. A senior officer from the South City Corporation confirmed that the works currently under way are limited to the development of walkways, bridges, a park, and gazebos. There is no order to begin desilting.

The Hindu learnt that the BBMP's Lakes division had drafted a proposal for desilting, estimated to cost around ₹35 crore. However, the proposal has remained as it is, and no further discussions have been held. Calls and messages to South City Commissioner K.N. Ramesh to seek an update on the proposal went unanswered.

The bund was breached in 2016 which led to flooding, indicating reduction in its water retention capacity, making desilting all the more important. FILE PHOTO

Need for desilting

V. Ramprasad of Friends of Lakes pointed out that lakes primarily serve the purpose of flood mitigation and groundwater recharge, but over time, civic bodies have focused more on beautification and turning them into recreational hotspots rather than addressing their core functions.

"Despite commercial fishing activities spoiling the lake's health due to contractors' greedy practices, they are allowed in many lakes. On the other hand, lakes have not been desilted for decades. This selective focus will only increase flooding and deteriorate groundwater levels," Mr. Ramprasad told *The Hindu*.

> Lakes have not been desilted for decades. This selective focus will only increase flooding and deteriorate groundwater levels
>
> **V. RAMPRASAD,** Friends of Lakes

In the case of the Madiwala lake, desilting is necessary to increase its water-holding capacity, as areas around the lake such as BTM Layout, Tavarekere, and Madiwala are prone to flooding.

In addition, storm-water drain lines from Puttenahalli, Sarakki, Arekere, and Hulimave lakes converge at Madiwala lake and then flow to Agara lake via Kodichikkanahalli and Silk Board, forming the K-209 line, according to a National Green Tribunal document. The network highlights the crucial role the Madiwala lake plays.

During the last monsoon, minor flooding was witnessed in BTM Layout and Tavarekere, indicating the possibility of large-scale overflow in the event of heavy rainfall.

Mr. Ramprasad noted that if the lake is not desilted and the storm-water drain lines are not strengthened, it could end in a full-fledged crisis.

It may be recalled that the lake had earlier breached its bund in 2016 and flooded the surrounding areas, disrupting normal life. Since then, the lake has undergone several upgrades and was even used for boating activities. However, it subsequently ran into a slew of problems, including the release of drain water into it and its use as a waste-dumping site.

An engineer from the South City Corporation admitted that desilting is necessary, as the lake has been filled with garbage, vessels, and heaps of junk. "Last year, when we deployed a weed-removal machine, it excavated a refrigerator and other kinds of waste. This is a sign that we should desilt it soon," the officer added.

Currently, the South City Corporation is nearing the completion of beautification works and is aiming to meet the March-end deadline.

The GBA has also deployed a new machine to remove weeds, a process expected to take two to three months given the extent of weed growth, which is a result of untreated sewage being let into the lake.

'Prepare short-term flood mitigation plan'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao has directed all five corporation Commissioners to draw up a short-term flood mitigation plan outlining works that can be completed within the next four months to minimise flood impact during the monsoon.

Mr. Rao asked officials concerned to place nature-based and eco-friendly principles at the core of all developmental activities and stressed that environmentally sensitive development and effective flood mitigation must be prioritised.

The Chief Commissioner has also asked officers to coordinate with the Tourism Department to develop lakes as public attractions while preserving their ecosystem. He made it clear that diesel or fuel-based boats would not be permitted in any lake, and that only non-polluting alternatives would be introduced. The boating systems must ensure zero pollution and minimal disturbance to aquatic life, he said.

Mr. Rao directed officials to examine the feasibility of introducing ducks in lakes, noting that ducks function as natural aerators and can contribute to improving water quality.

65-acre Tree Park planned at NGEF site in Baiyyappanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil on Saturday said that a 65-acre Tree Park will be developed on the land that earlier housed the State-owned NGEF factory at Baiyyappanahalli, out of the total 105 acres available at the site.

The first phase of the project is expected to be opened to the public in March, creating a premium green space, the Minister said.

Mr. Patil visited the NGEF premises to inspect the ongoing works related to the proposed park. He said, "The project is being implemented in four phases- Phase 1, Phase 1A, Phase 1B and Phase 2, at an estimated total cost of ₹37.75 crore."

He said works under Phase 1A are likely to be completed within the next six months, and added that ₹11.50 crore required for Phase 1 had already been released.

> The project is being implemented in four phases at an estimated total cost of ₹37.75 crore
>
> **M.B. PATIL** Minister for Large and Medium Industries

Scientific assessment

Mr. Patil said the site currently has around 8,500 trees and that a scientific assessment would be conducted to determine the future course of action with regard to the eucalyptus trees on the premises. "Not a single tree will be felled," the Minister said.

The Minister said the existing administrative office buildings and industrial sheds on the NGEF premises have been found to be structurally sound, based on an assessment carried out by scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). He said these structures would be refurbished and repurposed to suit present-day requirements.

M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, inspecting the site that earlier housed State-owned NGEF factory, at Baiyyappanahalli in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Parking facility

He also announced that a multi-level parking facility with a capacity to accommodate between 5,000 and 7,000 vehicles would be constructed on an additional 4.5 acres of factory-owned land located outside the main compound.

Two convention centres, each with a seating capacity of at least 15,000 people, would be developed in the existing electric motor sheds, Mr. Patil said. An incubation centre for start-ups, to be called 'Innoverse', will be set up by the government-run Karnataka Information Technology Services (KITS), providing dedicated workspaces for entrepreneurs. The IT-BT Department will also establish a 'Technology Innovation Museum' at the site at an estimated cost of ₹100 crore.

Sculpture park

The Tree Park will also include a world-class sculpture park and an NGEF museum. Mr. Patil clarified that no shopping mall would be constructed on the premises, but said a well-equipped amphitheatre would be developed to host various activities. He said the project would significantly benefit residents of east Bengaluru and that it would emerge as a green space superior to Cubbon Park and Lalbagh.

The Minister added that only a small portion of land required for the entrance gate falls under the jurisdiction of Namma Metro, and that discussions would be held to secure it.

Detailing the project, Mr. Patil said Phase 1 of the Tree Park would include an entrance plaza, elevated walkways, cycling tracks, water cascades, springs and fountains, a food court, children's play areas, pet-friendly zones, toilets and other essential infrastructure. An amount of ₹26.23 crore is being spent under Phase 1B.

Sports hub

Under Phase 2, sheds constructed during the factory's operational period will be redeveloped into a sports hub, an arts and culture centre, a community hall and a food court through a PPP model.

NIMHANS marks 50 years of its rural mental health facility

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A portrait of Acharya Buddharakkhita, founder of the Maha Bodhi Society, who had established the Mahabodhi Rural Health and Service Centre at Sakalawara in 1965 was unveiled. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NIMHANS on Saturday marked the 50th anniversary of the Sakalawara Community Mental Health Centre (SCMHC), recalling the evolution of one of India's earliest community-based mental healthcare initiatives.

Established in 1976, when mental health services in the country were largely urban and institution-based, the Sakalawara centre was conceived as a rural mental health facility. It aimed to take care of communities, experiment with new service and training models, and contributed to the development of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), which later became a key component of public mental healthcare in India.

Expansion of centre

Over the years, the centre expanded from outpatient services and community outreach to long-term rehabilitation and consolidated care. In recent years, it has adopted technology-enabled services, including tele-mental health, in line with national mental health priorities. During the COVID-19 period, services were continued through tele-enabled platforms. The commemorative programme began with the inauguration of an exhibition documenting five decades of the centre's work. Designed by the Department of Mental Health Education, NIMHANS, the exhibition traced key milestones from 1976 onwards and highlighted the integration of service delivery, training, and public engagement.

Buddhist links

On the occasion, a portrait of Acharya Buddharakkhita, founder of the Maha Bodhi Society, who had established the Mahabodhi Rural Health and Service Centre at Sakalawara in 1965, was unveiled. The centre was taken over by NIMHANS in 1976. As part of the celebrations, India Post released a commemorative postal cover marking 50 years of the centre's service. The NIMHANS also released publications documenting the centre's journey, including an anecdote book, a photo book, and a brochure on the services of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.

NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy said the Golden Jubilee marked the sustained efforts of several generations of professionals, staff, service users and community partners who contributed to the centre's work.

Bhikkhu Sugatananda, secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, V. Tara, IPoS, Director, Postal Services, Bengaluru Headquarters Region, and others attended the event.

'Public universities on the brink, urgent reforms needed'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Janandolana Mahamaitri, Mysuru, has expressed serious concern over the condition of public universities in the State, saying their survival is at stake owing to multiple factors, and demanded urgent steps to strengthen teaching facilities.

The organisation urged the State government to prioritise the appointment of permanent faculty members, pointing out that vacancies are steadily increasing, instead of utilising funds for bodies such as the Higher Education Council, which it alleged are being used to provide positions to former Vice-Chancellors.

In a release here, Mahamaitri called for the establishment of a new Higher Education Commission to safeguard the future of universities. The proposed commission, it said, should function under the leadership of education experts, with support from efficient officers of the Finance and Higher Education Departments. It further demanded that all financial matters of universities be disclosed transparently on the commission's website.

Seeking a detailed inquiry into the affairs of the University of Mysore, the organisation said steps must be taken to protect the sanctity of the institution built by eminent personalities such as Kuvempu. It also demanded the constitution of a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to probe the issues plaguing the university and examine the complaints, and submit a report to the Chief Minister.

These demands were placed at a press conference here on Saturday, addressed by Mahamaitri convenor Ugra Narasimhe Gowda and others.

The organisation raised concerns over delays in releasing pensions to retired employees of the University of Mysore.

MLA's cycling expedition draws PM's attention

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

At a time when politicians are in the news for the wrong reasons, this 70-year-old MLA and former Minister has caught the Prime Minister's attention by proving that it is possible to regain physical fitness with determination, irrespective of health complications.

BJP MLA for Rajajinagar, S. Suresh Kumar, was laid down for months by neurological complications due to a rare variant of chikungunya encephalopathy that made it difficult for him to even fold fingers. But now he has cycled from Bengaluru to Kanyakumari, covering 702 km.

Mr. Kumar was hit by the neurological complications that spread to his brain in August, 2024. But he surprised even the doctors by starting to walk, though with help, a few months after he was discharged. Being a cycling enthusiast, he resumed cycling along with swimming, which slowly helped him return to normalcy.

After a few cycling expeditions to nearby places, Mr. Kumar successfully took up the Kanyakumari expedition with the 15-member team of "Rajajinagar Pedal Power". During five-day expedition that started from Bengaluru on December 23, the members peddled for 48 hours.

"Earlier, I used to take up weekly expeditions on cycle, but after recovering from health complications, I cycle almost on a daily basis," says Mr. Kumar. Most of his expeditions begin at 4 a.m. when there is not much traffic. "Cycling has helped me re-invent myself besides boosting my confidence. For me, cycling is like meditating. Its an opportunity to converse with yourself."

A videograb of BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar cycling with his team during the five-day expedition to Kanniyakumari.

Expedition to Kanyakumari was an emotional event for him as he had cycled to this southernmost tip of the country in 1974. "I wanted to visit Kanyakumari in 2024 to mark 50 years of my earlier visit. But that did not materialise due to my health complications," notes Mr. Kumar.

After completing the trip a surprise awaited him on the New Year's day on Thursday when he got a call from Mr. Modi to congratulate him. "I will cherish those moments forever," Mr. Kumar said, adding that the Prime Minister made enquires on the expedition, team members, his cycling practice and health condition.

"I told him that one of the reasons for taking up cycling seriously was due to his call to take up cycling in all the assembly constituencies."

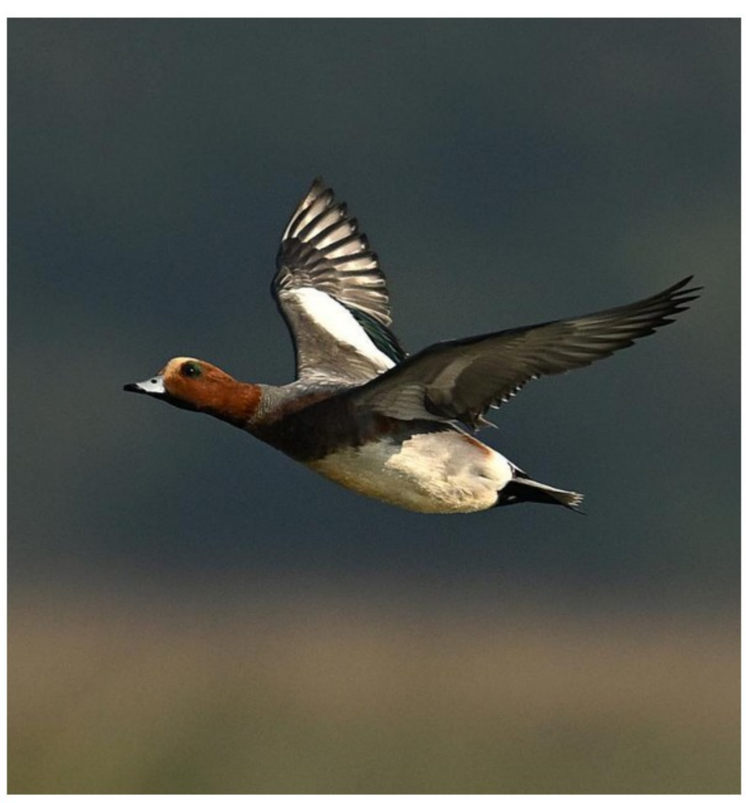
Mr. Kumar is happy that his regular cycling expeditions have encouraged other people including youngsters to take up cycling for physical fitness.

"This could happen as I did not lose hope and confidence," says Mr. Kumar on his Kanyakumari trip, adding he has has recovered nearly 75% now.

A regular: Arriving from their breeding grounds in Europe and Central Asia, greylag geese are a familiar sight at this time of year in Assam.

The day's catch: A purple heron, with a fish in its beak, flies back to its nest.

Fragile coexistence: Fishermen repair fishing nets on the bank of Lake Deepor Beel. Migratory birds and fishermen are often at odds over wetland use.



Cameo appearance: Eurasian wigeons make a stopover in Assam's wetlands in the Kaziranga National Park or Pobitora, on the Central Asian flyway.

Fascinating fowls: Northern pintail ducks, with their breeding range extending as far as the equator, visit the northeastern State every winter.

CM YK

S BG-BGE

Highest-ever organ donations made in 2025

Officials say increase was driven by the empanelment of more hospitals as non-retrieval organ transplant centres, including in tier-two cities

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

In 2024, the State recorded 168 donations, while the figure stood at 70 in 2021. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka's State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), the nodal agency that facilitates cadaver organ donations, has recorded 198 donations in 2025, the highest recorded in the State so far. This surpasses the previous peak of 178 donations in 2023. With this, Karnataka ranked third in the country in organ donations for the year, after Tamil Nadu with 267 donations, and Telangana with 205.

The steady rise in donations over the past five years reflects expanded hospital participation, growing awareness and improved systems, officials said. In 2024, the State recorded 168 donations, while the figure stood at 70 in 2021.

Principal Secretary (Health) Harsh Gupta told *The Hindu* that the increase was driven by the empanelment of more hospitals as non-retrieval organ transplant centres (NTHORCs), including in tier-two cities, along with sustained awareness efforts. "We are also felicitating donor families on January 26 and August 15 through the Chief Minister and Ministers, which has helped in building awareness and trust around organ donation," he said.

Expansion plans

Mr. Gupta said the government now plans to expand the programme to taluk-level hospitals.

"Doctors also need to be sensitised about declaring brain death. A lot more needs to be done. We are identifying where there is potential for donations and what the challenges are," he said.

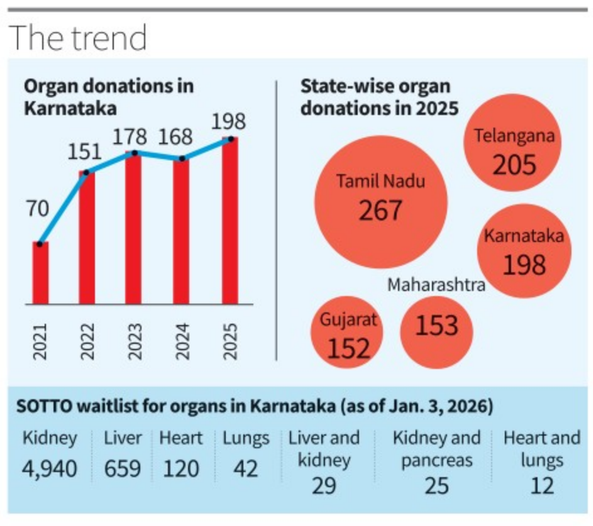
He pointed out that institutions such as NIMHANS see a significant number of cases where brain death could potentially be declared, but these opportunities are not being fully utilised. "This is a challenge. We had planned to place dedicated counsellors and earmark beds for potential brain-death cases, but these are not being used effectively. We will soon depute two dedicated grief counsellors there," he said.

Tamil Nadu software

To improve transparency and efficiency, Karnataka SOTTO has adopted a software system already in use in Tamil Nadu. The platform tracks the entire process- from registration of patients, declaration of brain death to identification of eligible recipients from the waiting list and facilitation of transplants. "Basic data entry has begun. Once a patient is registered, the queue system starts. All documents will be uploaded by hospitals and every step will be tracked online," Mr. Gupta said. Under the new system, once a donation is activated, alerts will be sent to the top 50 registered patients and empanelled hospitals. "Everything will be managed online and there will be transparency at every stage," he said.

Karnataka has also decentralised cross-matching services, which earlier required patients to travel to Bengaluru.

"Karnataka has considerable untapped potential for organ donation and the recent gains represent only a modest beginning. This trend now needs to be pushed much further," Mr. Gupta added.



State misses donations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has missed 15 potential organ donations in 2025. This is mainly due to reluctance by families of potential donors and misconceptions surrounding organ donations.

Elaborating on the reasons, the officials said potential donations are missed sometimes because the identified donor is not fit to donate due to clinical reasons.

Or, someone from the donor family/distant family/friends circle says no to organ donation and the next of kin do not have much say in taking a decision against the wish of those opposing it.

Also, there are misconceptions surrounding organ donation.

Science Santhe ignites spirited conversations, curious minds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Is there 'real intelligence' in ChatGPT? Should science be worshipped? Is there discrimination in science?

These were some of the many questions raised at Science Santhe, a first-of-its-kind gathering held in Bengaluru by Movement for Science Appreciation through Inclusion of Communities (Mosaic), a collective to build a diverse and inclusive community around 'all things science'.

The 'un-conference'-style meetup, which featured lightning talks, workshops and group discussions, saw participation from researchers, scientists, educators, students, technologists, and other enthusiastic individuals.

Spirited discussions

The informal discussions, held in smaller groups, saw spirited participation and debates on topics that came as suggestions from the audience at the beginning of the event. From normalisation of pseudoscience to collaborating with AI for accelerating learning to astronomy for the underprivileged, the topics covered a wide range of subjects and stirred rousing conversations.

"It is an experimental meetup, an inclusive format which is very common in the open-source software technology world," said Kailash Nadh, a member of Mosaic and CTO of Zerodha.

Experimental meetup

Mr. Nadh noted that the participatory format usually sees engagement from people of all ages and experience levels, and interests and knowledge are shared in a free-flowing manner. While it has worked for open-source technology communities, it rarely happens in science, he pointed out.

"We have science conferences , which are strict and serious gatherings. A bunch of us have been wondering for the last many years why something like that can't be possible for science. Why can't people who are interested in science- be it an artist or a technologist, or a student- get together, have a rational or philosophical debate or discussion or work on a project together? This experiment is the outcome of a bunch of those thoughts," he said.

Police appeal to visitors to use public transport for Chitra Santhe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 23rd edition of the annual Chitra Santhe will take place on Kumara Krupa Road on Sunday.

"Due to the limited parking availability around Kumara Krupa Road, the public are requested to use public transport. This will help ease traffic congestion and ensure smooth conduct of the event," the traffic police have appealed to those who plan to visit the annual art fair.

The police have prohibited all types of vehicle movement on both sides of Kumara Krupa Road, from Windsor Manor Junction to Shivananda Circle, between 5.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m.

No BDS seats vacant in State for 2 years in a row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seat allotment details

Courses	Seats in 2025		
	Available	Allotted	Remaining
Dental	2,709	2,709	00
Farm Science	3,056	3,020	36
Yoga Naturopathy	464	290	174
Pharmacy	3,813	3,022	791
AYUSH	8,945	7,950	995
Nursing	34,050	12,386	21,664

Compared to previous years, there has been a surge in the demand for Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) courses in Karnataka, and no seats have been vacant for the last two years. All the 2,709 BDS seats available in 2025 and 2,650 in 2024 have been taken.

This is a departure from earlier years when dental seats would remain vacant. Out of the 2,709 seats available in 2023, 199 seats were not taken. In 2022, out of 2,810 seats available, a massive 1,398 seats had remained vacant.

Acknowledgement

Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education, acknowledged that there was a growing interest in the dental course. Compared to other professional courses, there is traditionally a higher demand for seats in medical and dental courses. However, in recent years, due to shrinking job opportunities and other factors, the dental course had lost its charm.

The dental course was the second choice for medical seat aspirants who did not make it to medicine.

Changed scenario

However, due to changed circumstances, including new dental colleges not being opened and number of seats not going up, the available seats are getting filled. According to sources in the Medical Education Department, delay in the medical seat allotment process, late approval for increasing medical seats, court cases related to medical admissions have also contributed to increasing demand for the dental course.

However, at the same time, seats in Pharmacy, Pharm Science, AYUSH, BSc Nursing, and others courses continue to remain vacant. Out of the total seats available this year, 791 seats in Pharmacy, 36 in Pharma Science, 174 in Yoga Naturopathy, and 995 in AYUSH course remain vacant. Out of the 34,050 nursing seats available this year, only 12,386 seats have been filled. In 2024, a total of 16,744 and in 2023 as many as 22,774 seats had remained vacant.

Dr. Patil said, "From 2023 onwards, nursing seats are also being filled through Common Entrance Test (CET), which is conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority in the State. As many as 20% of government quota seats and 80% of private and management quota seats are also being filled on the basis of CET rank. The fee for government quota seats is ₹10,000, while the fee for private quota seats is around ₹1,00,000, which students find expensive."

As a result, government quota seats were getting filled, while private and management quota seats have remained vacant, the Minister added.

Saundatti Yallamma temple to be developed

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government has unveiled plans to develop the Saundatti Yallamma temple, the temple with the highest footfall in the state with around three crore people per year, into a tourist attraction with modern facilities.

A comprehensive plan of around ₹200 crore has been drawn up for the purpose. Of this, the State government is contributing a grant amount of ₹90 crore while the Union government is providing a long term, interest free loan of ₹100 crore.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 04	
RISE	06:43 SET 18:06
RISE	19:12 SET 07:31
MONDAY, JAN. 05	
RISE	06:43 SET 18:07
RISE	20:14 SET 08:24
TUESDAY, JAN. 06	
RISE	06:43 SET 18:07
RISE	21:11 SET 09:12

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	18
Bengaluru	27	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

IIA scientists unveil secret behind the dusty veil of T. Chamaeleontis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have unveiled an intriguing secret behind the dusty veil of a young star named T. Chamaeleontis (T. Cha), quietly forming planets about 350 light years from Earth when part of its circumstellar inner wall collapsed partially.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, this can help rewrite our understanding of how planetary systems evolve.

T Chamaeleontisan (T. Cha) is surrounded by a planet-forming disk called circumstellar disk that contains a wide gap- likely carved out by a newborn planet. "Normally, the dense inner regions of

It is surrounded by a planet-forming disk called circumstellar disk

such disks act like a protective wall or veil blocking much of the star's ultraviolet light from reaching the colder, outer regions. That shielding makes Poly Atomic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), flat, honeycomb-shaped molecules (Benzene rings) made of carbon and hydrogen thought to be among the earliest precursors of life's chemistry, especially hard to detect around low-mass, Sun-like stars," the department said.

While these molecules are common in interstellar clouds, detecting them in the disks of low-mass, Sun-like stars has been challenging due to the low amount of ultra violet light produced by them.

The IIA scientists used archival spectroscopic data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Mid Infrared Instrument (MIRI) to study polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the spectrum of this star.

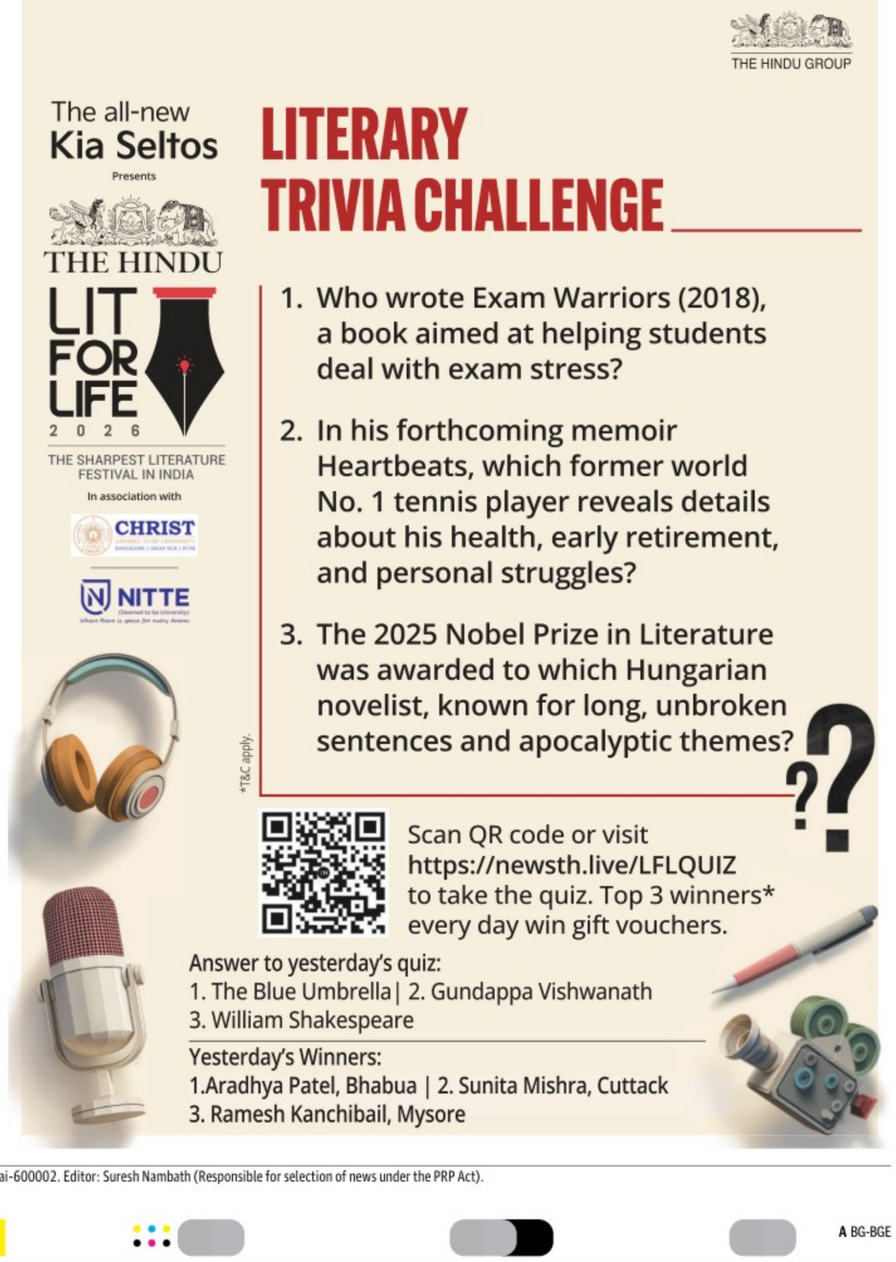
The ultra-sensitive JWST telescope, almost by accident, caught the moment in 2022 when that veil thinned- and an ancient kind of chemistry lit up in space.

The material from the disk of the star suddenly plunged onto the star in a burst of accretion, thinning or partially collapsing that inner wall. As this happened ultraviolet radiation suddenly streamed outward, illuminating parts of the disk that were once in shadow. This helped shed light on the survival and variation of complex hydrocarbon molecules in the planet-forming disk around a young, Sun-like star.

"JWST's MIRI has now revealed them clearly in T. Cha and this is one of the lowest mass stars with PAH detection in their circumstellar disk," said Arun Roy, a post-doctoral fellow at the IIA.

T. Cha was observed by the JWST in 2022, when the inner wall had partially collapsed allowing ultraviolet photons to flood the outer disk.

"This sudden illumination excited the PAHs in the disk, making them glow strongly in the JWST's detectors. It was like a curtain lifting, revealing chemistry that had been hidden for years," Mr. Roy added.



Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our daughter Miss. Shanmugapriya, aged 28 years (DOB: 01–11–1997), residing in Chennai, height 170cm, B.E, working with Deloitte, ERP, SD, 16 Lakhs/annum, Hindu, Tirunelveli Saiva Pillai, Visakam star, Thulam Rasi, Maharam Laknam. The groom should hail from same caste, well groomed, family oriented, career focused, aged between 28 & 30 years. Contact with details +91 98403 15397, cramsgd@yahoo.co.in

✔ **NEED UNMARRIED,** any language Brahmin Boy–employed in India/USA/Abroad. Ph: 9791111321 for BRAHMIN GIRL 1984/BTech/Employed

COSMOPOLITAN

ATTRACTIVE, TALENTED 35, well–educated professional (LSR; UK Master's). Seeks compatible groom. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

DIVORCEE

BEAUTIFUL, SINCERE 29, well–educated professional (MNC). Loving, cultured family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

DIVORCEE

HINDU NADAR, 41 years, 158cm, wheatish, Divorcee, B. Tech; M.S. in Life Science (USA), Freelancer, only daughter of a retired ISRO Scientist, well settled in Chennai, seeks well qualified professional groom, divorcee without kids, employed/business, same caste, good family. Contact: WA 9444895863.

DIVORCE THONDAIMANDALA Mudaliar Girl no issue 39 B.Tech, M.B.A working as Executive in M.N.C at Thiruvallur seeks well qualified and well employed in Chennai only. Vegetarian Mudaliar or Vegetarian family Boy. Ct :9381004883

DOCTOR

HINDU NADAR, 25, MBBS MD, 165, v fair, Hospital owner, seeks PG Doctor Multi millionaire family. Contact : 9940119844

M.S. SURGEON 28, BC Tall Fair Good Looking Seeks Suitable Doctors from Well Educated Broadminded Background.Caste no bar. Contact. 7200365364

MD General Medicine Doctor girl working in Chennai 32/156seeks suitable alliance 9447493034 /9497168001

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Intercaste Parents seek suitable Alliance for their Daughter D/B 25-3-95, 165 cm, IPS Officer Odisha Cadre from Parents of Civil Service Officers, Doctors, Judicial Officers or any other Group A Officers. Contact: 9447186098 & 9747823111.

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL,92BORN,MBBS,ATHAM,CHENNAI settled,kindly watsapp profile 9042526302

HINDU-VISWAKARMA PARENTS seeks suitable alliance for daughter, 27 yrs, MBBS, pursuing MD, height 157 cms, well-cultured and family-oriented, seeking PG Doctors/ Engineers/ Other Professionals Hindu grooms of age group 27-32. Caste No Bar. Never married. Alliance from respectable families preferred. Contact: ptsukumar@gmail.com.

HINDU NAIR girl (1/3/2002, 5:15 am, Uthram), Trivandrum, Kerala, studying MBA at Melbourne, Australia and also working in logistics company. Preferring NRI's Also without horoscope. Ph: 9526364446.

EZHAVA GIRL 31, MS, Gynec (Govt. College) 28.10.1994, fair, upper middle class, proposals from Doctors / Professionals. Ph: 8281425422.

TAMIL

BANGALORE BASED CSI Christian Nadar girl from upper middle class family – fair, slim, 5ft 6inches, divorced, 41, no kids. BE, MBA. Working with MNC, earning over 40 LPA. Seeking professionally qualified, god fearing Christian groom, below 45, no kids, from established family. Caste, language no bar. Contact mother on +918296019442/ mozartscadence@gmail.com

Groom wanted

Convent Educated Vanniya Kula Kshatriya, 24 yrs, Bride, B.Com, LLM, LLB, Hons, Reputed very well to do business family seek, AIS officer TN cadre, Group1, Doctor, Lawyer Cosmopolitan Groom.

WhatsApp/call-Dad: 9962331777

GROOM WANTED

Pillai / Isaivellalar, 27/167 cm, MBBS doing MD from well settled family seeks professionally qualified groom from Chennai. Doctors (MD and above) CASTE NO BAR

Ct: 9443255479

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, PILLAI, 36,M.Sc.,M Phil., Asst.Prof. Pondy,Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39 yrs. Ct: 98946-77892.

CSI NADAR 29/178cm USA MS Seeks CSI Nadar Groom from USA 9944885050.

CANADIAN CITIZEN Christian Bride 29 yrs, 159cm, is looking for God Fearing, Family Oriented, Canadian or American Citizen. Age 30–35, Professional, have Biblical values and Faith. Email Profile and Photo to rvjplanning@gmail.com 9677181606

36/154CMS CHRISTAN girl Born Again SC AD/ M.Ed/ Working in Chennai 25Kpm/ Own house seeks suitable groom below 40 yrs. Ct: 7339432540

40/163CMS CHRISTIAN girl Born Again Christian SC AD/ M.B.A/ Not working/ Own house seeks suitable groom below 45 yrs. Ct: 7339432540

CHRISTIAN NADAR 165cm 28yr Fair Advocate in Chennai, Doing CA, Prefer Doctor. Mail: itpleaseyou@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, 29, ME, 50 lakhs, VIP, 8137003549

CHRISTIAN CSI 42, Divorce seeks working professional, God fearing Christian–educated family. 8939896578

CHRISTIAN, 36, MBA, rich & affluent. 8137003550

CHRISTIAN, 24, BSc, rich & affluent. 8138900470

RC NADAR, 32/153, Chithirai, M.E., Spiritual, Vegetarian, wants to be a home maker seeks Groom. Ct:94422 47012, 94959 97012

RC Nadar, 35/156, B.Tech, Working in TCS Canada with PR. Seeks RC Groom. Caste No Bar. Ct:75388 02230

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

WELL EDUCATED, 36 , Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 94896 95984.

MUDHALIAR 31 162cm BTech Abudhabi working in MNC seeking High Abroad Profiles CNB Geetham 9884858014

SENGUNTHAR 31/162 BE, MBA working in MNC, Chennai seeks suitable match. Subcaste no bar. Ct: 7200988849

SEEKING NEVER Married Tamil/Telugu Groom age (43–44)working in Chennai/US for Naidu Bride–SWE. Yamini.hari@gmail.com/ 9445270312/ 9962805093

RICH MUDALIYAR, 31yrs B.Tech,MBA, Industrial background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 6385293227

VANIYA CHETTIAR, 46/157, Rohini, M.Sc., TNGFS Department Officer. seeks equally Qualified Employed Groom. Contact: 94452 07116

HINDU, 33, castenobar, NRI, BE, 10 crores, 7356483111

Hindu, 30, pillai, B.tech, 10 crores, 8137003550

HINDU, 28, caste nobar, ME, 50 lakhs, 9072777822

HINDU, 28, Mudaliyar, BE, 20crores, 8138009235, VIP

YADHAVA/1990 BORN/ Govt Job / PSU–Health Care / 8.00 LPA/Veg/Caste no bar in BC or OBC. CT:9597459651 or 9443985816.

HINDU, 28, widow, B.L, caste no bar, 7356483111

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Tamil Maruthuvar, BBA, LLB(Hons), 24 years, 155cm, Very Fair, Good Looking, Working in Corporate, Parents State Government Officers, Looking for well Qualified Professionals with Good Family Background, Same Caste Contact with Horoscope, Photo/Profile

WhatsApp only: 9841262160

PILLAI GIRL 29 YRS / 160 / N. VEG / B. TECH - MEM - IVY LEAGUE USA, LIVES IN NEW YORK / H1B, WORKING WITH TOP 5

Seek well educated well placed boy in USA. Caste no bar.

Call +91 9791664050 WhatsApp +91 8925527453

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

Bengali Boy 27 Years / LPA 21 seeks Educated Smart Bong Girl (M) Contact - 9839187701.

COSMOPOLITAN

DM– DOCTOR (Tamil, Dec91, 185 cm, Kongu Vellalar, Hastham, affluent) , wkg in Bangalore, seeks a tall, v.fair, virtuous PG Doctor / non medico bride.(28–31 years) Any language / FC–BC castes. Parents:93425–29547 / 9072118800

US BASED Professor 47/174, Eggetarian, Divorcee (No kids) & green card holder from a reputed family of S.India living in Oklahoma seeks a good, educated Hindu bride living in US. Preferably citizen or green card holder. Contact: 94470 18822

29, HINDU, IITM. HSEE Post graduate, Entrepreneur, well settled, earning min 36 Lac P.A., Seeks well educated, Broad minded/outlook, independent, career–oriented bride (doctor/dentist/CA/architect/self–employed professional) to settle in Coimbatore. Caste no bar. CT: 8056145620

DOCTOR

29 Year old M.S General Surgery Chennai Doctor Employed, both Parents Doctors seeks Doctor/ IT Professional Hindu Bride who Values our Culture & Tradition from Educated broad minded family Contact 9384895855

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

AGARWAL BOY, 29yrs, Bank Job, 36 LPA package, underwent kidney transplant, health now perfectly ok, seek suitable bride. CT: 6230198418

MALAYALAM

Hindu Nadar Boy, Trivandrum, 33/181, Thrikketta, PhD Computer Science from Australia (thesis submitted) seeks alliance from any educated Hindu Family. Contact: 7012888675

COIMBATORE Nair Boy 35/170 cm Atham B.Tech, MBA, Deputy General Manager L&T / Schneider Electric, seeking Alliance. Father-Central Govt. Officer Contact: 8281253956.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 31, divorced, MD, Doctor, 50 lakhs, caste/religion no bar. 8137003549

CHRISTIAN NADAR 1st Marriage 53/174 MPhil GovtOficer 30L & 52/170 PhD Prof House@Chennai. Seek upto 45 FC/BC Educate Professional 9444032498

CHRISTIAN, 30, born again, MNC, Australia. 8138900316

MUSLIM, COIMBATORE, 34/178cms, Athletic, BE MBA, working BLR, 35+ LPA, seeks Family Oriented upper middle class Tamil/Urdu/Malayalam speaking MBA/Dr/CA/Arch, Working beautiful bride < 31. WA: 9789490721.

CHRISTIAN CSI Tamil 43yrs/174Cm, BE. MBA, Divorcee No Issues MNC Abroad. seeks suitable Bride. 9094677765

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

SOZHIYA VELLALAR Pillai, 35, BE (CSE), Software Engineer from Coimbatore, seeks a bride aged 28–33 with a graduate qualification. All stars welcome except Aswini, Magham, Ayilyam, Kettai, and Moolam. Any Hindu community. Contact: +91–9940649141

EliteMatrimony

Personalized & Confidential Service for the Elites

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 26, 183 cms, MBA, Involved in Family Business. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448344

INTERCASTE, 29, 180 cms, BE, Involved in Family Business. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar caste in South India. Contact: 6366448344

EZHAVA, 38, 170 cms, Divorced, M.Tech, Director for a Healthcare Technology Company. Parents are working professional. Looking for an affable match from an equivalent caste. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

JAIN, 31, 160 cms, M.Arch, Working in Pvt sector. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar caste in Chennai and Banglaore. Contact: 6366448343

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 27, 180 cms, Purusing MD. Father is owning a Hospital in Coimbatore. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from Business class from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN IYER, 24, 152 cms, Purusing CA. Father is owning a Auditing firm in Chennai. Family is affluent. Looking for a suitable match from Business class from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

Largest Pool of True Elite Profiles | Dedicated & Experienced Relationship Managers | Most Successful Elite Service | Pioneers of Elite Matrimony Service in India

www.elitematrimony.com | Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

COSMOPOLITAN

Chartered Accountant(61Y) well settled Widower, Tamil Iyer, 2 Sons, seeks educated Cosmopolitan Bride (50s) from respectable family Ph: 90873 49911

Arya Vysya, Caste no bar. 30, 178, Software 45 LPA, well-settled Seeking a middle-class girl. Ph: 8555072557.

DIVORCEE

THOUGHTFUL, SUCCESSFUL 48, 180cm, well–educated, US–based professional. Seeks compatible bride. Caste/language no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

GOUNDER AGE 50/163cm,B.Com Fair Govt Sal:80K.Pm Need Any Govt, well Settled Bride No Age Limit 9842941182

MALAYALAM

Menon / Nair 28/183cm, M.Tech(IIIT), IT Professional Financially Sound, seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 94401 85113

NRI

SMART, MATURE 27, 178cm, ambitious EU–based professional (double Master's). Affluent Christian family. Seeks compatible bride. Community/ language no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

TAMIL HINDU 55 yrs, 173cm BSc, MBA, IT Proff, Australia, Divorce. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: +61422909407

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, Born again, NRI, VVIP, 100 Crores, 8138900316,

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 27, UK, MBA, 30 crores, fair. 8138900652

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Male 53 Unmarried Teacher. Seeks Bride. Divorcees,Widowers without issues are also welcome. Apply: vinziisaac@gmail.com

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

TAMIL 45 B.E 9994351766 Carleton Nadar https://ingeniousdesigntech.com IISc https://tamilfilmmakerspro.com

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE,M.sc (UK), 5lakhs pm, Elite business family Ct:9841329471/ 9380791999

TAMIL

1984 BORN, MCA, Coimbatore Settled, Garments Export Business, Looking for House Wife/Home Maker to be in a Joint Family. Education/ Wealth not Important.Matrimony Agents Excuse, Ct 9489603438

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

SC (AD), 30yrs, B.Tech, Very Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9176491777

CHENNAI, MUDLR Ph.D, Tetolr, Divorced, 42Yrs,GM Chess Govt 2Lac/Mth.Educ simple Any Cast,Girl 9884171419

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 36, BCA, MBA, Ht –5.5, Wheatish Color, HR (Asst Manager) in IT, Sal: 1.5L PM 8148017757

BRIDE WANTED Tamil Beri Chettiar 32,BE, MS working Infosys seeks girl from Chettiar Chennai Ct 9566163405

WELL–SETTLED, US based professional 41/180, Hindu, Tamil, Vegetarian, B.Tech & MS, working in San Francisco, first marriage seeks well–educated, independent, open–minded partner, never married or divorced (no children), working in or willing to relocate to USA. Ct: 9500160513.

TAMIL JAIN 32/ 185 Pooradam/ B.E/ Business, settled in Chennai seeks suitable Bride from same community or Pure Veg Family. Ct:97890 90793

MUDALIAR, BE, MTECH 28/168cm working in software - Chennai good looking seeks working bride. Ct: 9444701999 / 9841816265

HINDU, 37, caste no bar, NRI, 30 crores, 8138900470.

HINDU, divorced, USA, CPA 30 crores, 9072777811

MUDALIYAR HINDU Tamil boy MBA IIT (M), 31/175 Power Finance Corporation (C.Govt), Delhi 24L/pa seeks qualified tamil bride. Caste no bar. 9444672110/ mohanbharathi100@gmail.com

HINDU NAIDU, 2nd Marriage, Age: 45, BBA, IT, 8 Lacs P.A, seeks suitable Bride, Divorcee or Widow without Children. Caste No Bar. 9840976778

HINDU, 28, caste no bar, fair & handsome, UK, VVIP. 8138900412

SEEKING BRIDE for our son 35y/173cm, MTech(IIT), MS(US), working in US. Hindu Tamil, Girl in India only. Parents Thevar and Iyengar, Caste No Bar. 9600865587, sivampankajam@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 32/168 Kettai BE Mech, MBA, Coimbatore CT: 95977-72439, 84892-72439.

TAMIL YADAVA Boy, MBA, 37, Ayilyam,,TCS, Chennai seeks yadava bride within TN., Sozhia Vellalar, Mudaliyar bride considerable., Contact through Tamil. 9965673354, 7373386474.

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED: For 33–yr–old groom, Piramalai Kallar, employed at Nokia, Bangalore, Income Rs.1.20 Lakhs pm., well–settled family, alliance from any Mukkulathor is welcome. Earlier marriage legally declared null & void. Contact with details: +91 98845 10516.

DKV 2nd Marriage 53 / 3.5 LPM Sr. GM B'lore Seeks Issueless Girl CNB 9442607143.

AGE 56, Good body structure, Well settled Looking for a very beautiful & comfortable bride over 50 Years old. Email : dharanr2006@gmail.com

PILLAI 38 Central Govt Officer Swati/Thula looking Bride CNB 9597331609

THULUVA VELALAR, Dec1981, BE, Software Professional seeks a suitable match. 9442112385 /7353847074 (WApp)

TAMIL HINDU SC AD 30/169 BE., MBA (IIMT) well placed boy, seeks bride from well educated/ settled family. Ct: 9448664461

Hindu Nadar 40 yr/180 cm PSU Bank Manager, CBE Divorcee seeks life partner any BC Caste Ct: 9942280831

MUDALIAR 30/185, Hsome, BE, MS,TC Engr, MNC, USA,200000. USD.PA, Elite,70Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9176491777

THULUVA VELLALAR - Karthik - Ayilyam - Kadagam - May 1990 - 180 cm; B.Tech, ECE - Business - Puducherry - Seeking a Bride, +91 97892 10174, +91 95668 38577

HINDU 64 yrs well Settled separated from Family looking for a widow 50 yrs for remarriage. WA 8220822951.

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED

Vadakalai Iyengar - Bharadwaja - Swathi - Thula; Sep' 1995 – Normal Complexion - 172 cm; PG in AI&ML from BITS & BE (ECE) – Working as Lead Data Analyst in MNC, Bangalore; Seeking a Bride who is working in Bangalore or willing to relocate.

+91-94814-06236
+91-97316-33361
krishrang1962@gmail.com

TAMIL

Viswakarma 33/170cm, BE (EEE) Sr. Engg working in Ashok Leyland Macroline Control Chennai, Earning 4.2L / PA, seeks well Educated good Looking Bride. Star : Sathayam, Rasi: Kumbam. Contact: 98400 39922.

Brahmin 47 seeks Girl 35 to 45, Private, own House, Fair, Clean habit any caste, No mother, Only Son. Ct: 97914 53205, 99629 17322, 80723 60203.

Parents looking for Mudhaliar/ allied forward caste Hindu, educated cultured, Higher middle/ higher class bride for our only son born 3/4/1995. Fair good looking, 165cm height, M.Tech, PhD Genetics, Research scientist in UK. Star Bharani, Mesham rasi, Elite Mudhaliar community. Parents living in Chennai. Interested send horoscope to Email: apsaram1953@gmail.com Whatsapp: 89390 61404.

Looking for an Educated, slim, and fair Bride with a minimum height of 160 cm, from an Educated Family for a 31-year-old, 180 cm, fair, slim, Software Professional Working in Bangalore, Palghat Iyer, Srivatsa Gotram, Uthram Nakshatram, Vadama. Send your details on WhatsApp or call us at +91 99867 88366.

HINDU NADAR Groom 36/5'11"/lean, Superspecialist Doctor, Chennai, well settled, divorced, no child. Seeks preferably unmarried, well educated bride under 34yrs. Profession No Bar. Contact: 9500127162.

TELUGU

PANTA REDDY, 46/170 B.Tech, 10LPA, Unmarried, Educated, well settled family chennai. Seeks Reddy / Naidu Bride, Sub–Caste No Bar. 9940360491

BTECH (ECE), Gavara, Age 24, Data Analyst in Wells Fargo, Hyderabad, 11 Lakhs per Annum, Chennai working girls Preferred Contact : Ashok 8939835453, mail ashoksfl72@gmail.com

NAIDU 30/182 Handsome MBBS, MS,Own Hospital, 5000000.PA, Elite Family, 200.Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

NAIDU, CNB, 31yrs, MBBS, MS, Very Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

NAIDU, 29YRS, Divorce, M.Tech, Running Own Business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:6385293227

Kamma/ Converted Christian 49y/170 Rich/ Widower/ Software Architect in USA (Citizen), CNB. Wup:7032123063

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM 38/178cm M.Tech (Automotive Consultant in MNC), Legally divorced seeks Educated, religious bride for second marriage. Divorcee or widow prefered without kids from Tamilnadu Urdu speaking only. Contact: 9840104813

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

TAMIL

HINDU SOURASHTRA Girl of Anusham, Viruchigam, Cleared MRCS Currently Surgical Registrar @ NHS, UK of 29/ 163cm /64 kg, Fair & Slim Needs Groom Working/Settled in UK. 9486869995

MUDALIAR 24/ V.Fair, BE, MS, Father Business, Chennai, Elite Family, seeks groom Business/Eng–8925019776

HINDU, 29, caste no bar, ME, 40 lakhs. 8138900537

AFFLUENT HINDU business family from Bangalore seeks suitable match for their daughter (1989 born), good-looking, working in Paris with a French bank. Seeking well-educated, handsome South Indian groom, well-mannered with good values. WhatsApp: 98454 89161/ Email: vyjayanthimala1960@gmail.com

SAMBAVAR, 29/165, M.Arch (Landscape), wheatish, Consultant Architect, affluent, Class 1 Contractor in PWD, seeks suitable teetotaler bridegroom from good family background, Contact: 99948 93631, 94443 27412

SC (AD), 27yrs, M.Tech, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 26yrs, BDS, Elite business family in Chennai. Contact: 9380791999, 9841329471

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu, 35yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite Industrial background in Chennai Caste No Bar. 6385293227

MUDALIAR 26/168 Fair, Beautiful, MD, Own Hospital, Elite Family 50.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR (CNB) 26/ V.Fair, B.E, MS, MNC, Sr.Analyst, Chennai, Decent pay, well settled family, seeks groom India / Abroad – 9962530015

MUDALIAR 25, BE, MBA 160cm Good Looking, Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465 / 7200866346

TELUGU

✔ **LOOKING FOR Groom, US citizen, Hyderabad Telugu 34/176cm, wheatish, MBA, Data Sci PhD, govt job, divorced, SC, well settled. Seeking well educational, settled boy. Caste no bar. Global Matches. Ct: 92475 04919.**

TELUGU

SEEKS BRIDE GROOM for Naidu age 39/172 MSc divorce no children upper middle class. Seeks well settled equal groom. Cell No. 9842470621.

Balija Naidu 35Y/165cm PhD Scholar, Academic Trainer and Mentor in Chennai seeks suitably qualified groom born between 1987 to mid 1990 within India only. Ph: 97909 08109

44 Yrs /165cm/ SWE/ Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

NAIDU GIRL 29/165cm , Aswini pursuing PhD doctoral studies in Satellite Communications Neuromorphic computing European space agency - Europe seeking suitable groom PhD / MS in USA. Ct: 98401 03686

NAIDU 26/167, Fair, Slim, BE, Family Textile Business, lite 50.Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

✔ **SUNNI MUSLIM** Mumbai based Urdu speaking Religious family seeking Groom from India or abroad for their only daughter (32 years) B.F.M., CFA Level 2, Digital Marketing Professional,Fair, Good looking. Contact : +91 – 7977313228

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

LEADING DIAGNOSTIC Scan Centre, prime location in Chennai with 3T MRI / CT / Doppler & other Modalities. Excellent practice. Sale price Rs 30 Cr. chendiagscan@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Operating Gas Engines with Power Generation Capacity of 26 MW along with evacuation facility in about 8 acres with Land, building and structure along with adjacent Industrial land is

available for Sale.

Serious buyers contact in the email id: jitpaul0126@gmail.com

FINANCE

IMMD PERSONAL Business Proprty Project Collateral Low Intrst. 7305912765

SHARES / INVESTMENTS

EQUITY ADVANCED Class & Earn Profits Build Financial Future. 9384793636

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

B.SC AGRI passed out 2023/before. Working or freshers. Ct: 7010379617

MEDICAL

Sir Ivan Stedeford Hospital

NABH 6th Edition / NABL Accredited

250 Bedded Multispeciality Hospital Ambattur, Chennai 600053

1. Junior Cardiologist
(MD, DM / DNB) - Fresher
(Timing 9am- 2pm/ 2pm - 8pm)

2. Junior Cardiac Anaesthetist
(MD, DRNB)
0- 3 yrs Exp
(Timing 9am- 2pm/ 2pm - 8pm)

3. Sonologist
(Fetal Medicine) (MD)

Salary commensurate with Industry standards.

Ct: 95513 93536

Mail ID: sish@ammfoundation.org

GENERAL

KENNEL PETS

MADRAS CANINE Club's Triple all breeds Championship dog shows, Three speciality shows and obedience trials on 31st January & 1st February 2026 at St Bedes School, Cricket Ground, Karneswar Pagoda Street, near Light House, Mylapore, Chennai 600004. For show entries, stalls Contact Secretary, Old No 51, Seventh Cross Street, Shenoy Nagar West, Chennai-600030.Phone:044-26260693 Mob: 98840 46278. If your dog is registered with KCI, you could participate at the dog show.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shashi Bala Srivastava W/o Anoop Srivastava R/o 07 Prestige Dorchester, Jakkur Bengaluru 560064, have changed my name as Shashi Srivastava

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Two youths held for attacking policemen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police on Thursday arrested two youths for allegedly attacking policemen on duty after they were confronted for misbehaving with a group of women near Balekundri Circle in the early hours of Thursday.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 1.40 a.m. when the accused, identified as Ansh Mehta and Parv Rathi, both 22, behaved inappropriately with women who were waiting for a cab. The women then alerted the police. Ravi K., constable, was deployed for bandobast duty during the New Year celebrations and was on night patrol. He confronted the accused, but they allegedly picked a quarrel with him following which the constable sought reinforcements. When Ravi called for reinforcements, the accused manhandled the police who arrived at the scene.

Following the incident, the police immediately overpowered the accused and took them into custody. An FIR has been registered at the Vidhana Soudha police station, and the duo were produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody.

The duo completed their graduation in the city, relocated to Chennai and returned a few days ago. They were staying in a rented accommodation. The duo had gone to a bar to celebrate New Year and harassed the girls.

Evicted families to hold rally today

A complaint has been filed with the State Minorities Commission seeking action against Ashok over remarks made during his visit to Fakeer Layout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a protest on Monday against alleged preferential treatment to residents of Kogilu Layout, those who lost their homes in a demolition drive will hold a public rally on Sunday.

Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashok visited Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited (RGHCL) office on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters, he said around 65,000 people have applied for housing under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation, and they should be given preference over those who had encroached government land in the Kogilu Layout. "About 7,000 houses have been built under various schemes in the corporation. Another 10,000 houses are under construction.

Evicted families raising slogans during a protest at the demolished site in Kogilu Layout in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

An 80-year-old woman has paid the full amount, but she has not yet been given a house. For the past four months, she has been made to run around, and that house still lacks drinking water and electricity connection. She is living in a rented house and is anxious about having to leave it. Similarly, thousands of Kannadigas have applied and are waiting for houses," he said.

Alleging there were illegal Bangladeshis among those who lost homes in Kogilu, Mr. Ashok demanded genealogy should be made mandatory when giving houses. Meanwhile, a complaint has been filed with the Karnataka State Minorities Commission seeking action against Mr. Ashok over remarks made during his visit to the demolished site at Fakeer Layout, alleging that his statements amounted to hate speech and incitement against minority communities. A BJP fact finding committee led by MLA for Yelahanka S.R. Vishwanath visited the demolition site on Saturday, causing some tension.

Report

Mr. Vishwanath said the committee would submit its report in the next few days to BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra. "We will submit the report to the Governor and eventually take the issue to the court," he said.

Teacher dies in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 57-year-old teacher died in an accident after he lost control of his car and crashed into a roadside tree on the outskirts of Doddaballapur early on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Jagadishaiah, the head master of a school and a resident of Basavanahalli, Nelamangala.

The accident occurred near the Akashavani area on the Doddaballapur-Nelamangala road, while he was on his way to work in the morning.

According to the police, the car was travelling at high speed. Jagadishaiah sustained fatal injuries and died on the spot.

AYUSH Habba from Jan. 31

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A two-day AYUSH Habba will take place in Mangaluru starting January 31, Legislative Assembly Speaker and MLA for Mangaluru U.T. Khader said.

Launching the festival poster on Saturday, Mr. Khader said the event is likely to attract 5,000 to 10,000 people.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr(Op.)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/25-26/7926 Date: 02.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry No.KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/847, Date: 23.12.2025 for the tender for **Refilling, painting, stickering & pressure testing of various types of fire extinguishers of various capacities at varuious sub-stations of Operations Division, Hootagalli coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, Mysuru.**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.01.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, N. R. Mohalla, Mysuru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned properties from its present owner in possession **Smt.M.Malligea Cariappa.** The general public, banks, lenders, relatives, heirs apparent etc., are hereby called upon to lodge their objections if any with me with regard to the land bearing Sy.No.126/1 measuring 27 Guntas, land bearing Sy.No.126/2 measuring 7 Acres 3 Guntas and land bearing Sy.No.127 measuring 36 Guntas excluding kharab of 1 Gunta in all measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas all situated at Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluka and Mandya district.In case if anyone have any claim or rights over the said property/properties, they can lodge their objections/ claims with cogent documents/records so as to reach me **within 3 weeks** from today, failing which, my client may proceed to purchase the said property/properties and any objections/claims raised later on will not be conceded/ entertained.

Eashwar Prasad. B, Advocate,
No.15, 4th floor, Grand Majestic, Gandhinagar 2nd cross Road, Bengaluru-560009.
9448690314-8310039482-9071999996.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01, Phone: 080-22133370
No. 48/2025-26 Date: 03.01.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Hoskote, Nelamangala, Doddaballapura & Anekal Sub-Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for **08 works (Rs.7.00 Lakhs to Rs.700.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 P.M. on: 12.01.2026 (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP Portal on: **13.01.2026 at 4.30 P.M.** or further date and time will be intimated. For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4830/KSMCA/2025-26

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/19/2025-26)
Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 711/2019, 712/2019, 713/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Vacant Site bearing No.403, Old Khata No.503/165C Ward No.33, New Khata No.33-03-13-363B at Hassan City, Tannerhalla Circle, Tannerhalla Main Road, Hassan, Total Agr.928.6070 sq.mt (9996 sq.ft) bounded on East by: Village Road, West by: M.K.Swamy & Puttaswamy's property, North by: vacant site, South by: Remaining portion of the same property. Vacant Site bearing No.404, Old Khata No.503/165B Ward No.33, New Khata No.33-03-13-363A at Hassan City, Tannerhalla Circle, Tannerhalla Main Road, Hassan, Total Agr.654.04 sq.mt. bounded on East by: Cross Road, West by: Remaining portion of the same property., North by: B.M. Road, South by: Remaining portion of the same property. Vacant Site bearing No.405, Old Khata No.503/165D Ward No.33, New Khata No.33-03-13-365A at Hassan City, Tannerhalla Circle, Tannerhalla Main Road, Hassan, Total Agr.290.6018 sq.mt. (3128 sq.ft) bounded on East by: Village Road, West by: Vacant site of children of Siddaiha, North by: Remaining portion of the same property., South by: Residential building of Murali Banu Prakash Subramanya. Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/9uioKWQ221xttdco9 Latitude and Longitude: 12°59'44.0"N 76°04'54.0"E	19,14,82,950/-	1,91,49,000/-	19,15,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
21st January 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	03rd Febraury 2026 11:00am to 05:00pm	16th February 2026 Before 5pm	17th February 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.
Date: 01-01-2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/4834/Zen/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. MESCOM/IT/99/2022-IT/2025 Date: 01.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

MESCOM invites the tender from the prospective bidders for **"Selection of an Agency for Providing Annual Technical Support (ATS) for "Nanna MESCOM" Android and iOS based Mobile App"** vide Tender Enquiry No: **MESCOM/2025-26/SE0143.**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **03.01.2026.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the **helpline at +91-9240214000/ 9240214001** or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1342/25-26 dt: 03.01.2026
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer(Ele)(Projects)
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.
No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/12/2025-26 Date: 02-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivajinagar Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction of Multi Purpose Building at M.V. Garden near SC / ST Block No. 39 and 41 in Ward No. 121, Halasuru. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
2	Construction of Ambedkar Community Hall at M.V. Garden in Ward No. 121, Halasuru. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**
3	Asphalting to OPH Road, Meenakshi Koil Street, Veerapillai Street and Surrounding in Ward No. 119, Shivajinagara and Improvements to Maccan Road in Ward No. 120, Bharathinagara. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,50,000.00 (Rs. 1,00,000.00 NEFT Remaining Rs. 3,50,000.00 Bank Guarantee)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **09-01-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara, BCCC, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **12-01-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **13-01-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Technical Bid Approved.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Notice is hereby given to Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner **Mr. K.T. BALAKRISHNA S/o Late D. Channamma (K.C. Thimmegowda),** aged about 62 years, Residing at: Door tNo.390 "Chethana" Maruthi Temple Street, T.K. Layout Mysore-570009.

Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, Mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement, or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand & the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents & purposes. Claims without documentary proofs and/or objections directly published in Newspaper shall not be considered as Valid.

Schedule Property

All that piece and Parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Site No. E-118, MANYATHA RESIDENCY, BBMP Thanisandra Ward No. 06, Rachenahalli Bangalore-560045, having BDA Application No. 1601662274, Measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 80 Feet totally measuring 4000 formed in Sy No. 15/3 of Rachenahalli Village, situated at "MANYATHA RESIDENCY", Thanisandra Ward No. 06, Rachenahalli village, Yelahanka Taluk (Bangalore North Taluk)** Bangalore a layout Approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, and bounded on the;

East By : Site No. E-128
West By : Road
North By : Site No. E-117
South By : Site No. E-119

Sri. PRAVEEN KUMAR RODDAM
S/o Surendra Babu Roddam
Residing at #A-1002, 10th Floor
Bairavi Cruz Laxury Apartment
Chelekeri Main Road,
Opp: to St. Rocks church,
Kalyan Nagar,Bangalore-560043
Mobile: 95381 00008

Date : 04-01-2026
Place : Bangalore

SD/-
HANUMANTH R.
ADVOCATE
Mobile: 9620697201

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Commissioner, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048
No.: Comm/BECC/PS/E-177861/2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation for **Widening of Channasandra - Hennuru Road from Channasandra - Kalkere Main Road to Hennur Main Road via Horamavu Lake and Banjara Layout as per RMP-2015** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan for the width of 24.00 mtrs **Ch:0.00Mtrs to 1037.00Mtrs**
The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.
The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Kalkere**

Sl. No.	Sy. No. / Khata No.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture	Nature of Land: Converted undeveloped	Nature of Land: Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Dimension	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Extent	Boundaries of the land / plot: North	Boundaries of the land / plot: South	Boundaries of the land / plot: East	Boundaries of the land / plot: West	Building Details: Extent in Sq.m	Building Details: Type of Construction and No. of floors	Building Details: Floor Area Ratio	Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued
1	Sy No. 1/12	Vacant land		Agriculture Land			465.38		Sy.No. 2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.1/12	Sy No.1/3	Sy No.1/11	None	None	None	Vacant	85,000/-	Sri. K.P. Bahuguna, S/o. C. Pillappa, R/at No. 1/2, Near Banjara Layout, Pillappa Farms Kalkere, Bengaluru-560043 Represented by G.P.A Holder Mr. B.S. Surendranath

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No.: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024.
Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch Office	Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048

Sd/-,
Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕಾಪು

ಕ್ರಸಂ.: ಪು.ಸ.ಕಾ/ನೈ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/08/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01-01-2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾಪು ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲೂರು ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಘಟಕದ **Sanitary Landfill** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿರುವ ಪಾರಂಪಾರಿಕ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು **RDF** (ದಹನಯೋಗ್ಯ ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಬಿಡಿಭಾಗ (ಉದಾ: ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್, ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ, ಬಟ್ಟೆ, ಟಯರ್, ಹರಿದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್, ಗಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್, ಮರದ ತುಂಡು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ) ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಟರಿಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸಲು **(Transportation)** ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **(DMA/2025-26/SE6536)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-01-2026 ರಿಂದ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು / ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-01-2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-01-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡ್ಯಾಕುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾಪು, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/633/25-26 ದಿ: 03.01.2026

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLIS, Division No-2, Huvinahadagali, Vijayanagara(Dist)**
Ph.No.08399-200001 e-mail: eeslid2hdl@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONLY THROUGH "e-Procurement" SYSTEM)

Reference: 1. This office Tender Notification No: 1568/2025-26 Dated: 01.01.2026

Tenders in Electronic mode are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, bythe Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLIS Division No.2, Huvinahadagali for the work of Water Management of Canal network for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27 coming under SLIS Project from the eligibleTenderers who are fulfilled the terms and conditionsmentioned as in Tender Notification cited at reference (1) above. The tenders having Work Indent No.KNNL/2025-26/SE0373 in KPP-Portal and The amount put to tender this work is Rs. 137.14 Lakh(Excluding GST) and EMD amount is Rs.2.058 Lakh.

Therefore, The bidders can access the tender in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inwebsite from 05.01.2026 and the last date of submission for the tender is 20.01.2026 and date of opening of Technical Bid 23.01.2026.

Further bidders are hereby by instructed to contact or visit the below mentioned office in working hours regarding Terms and Conditions of the tender and for furthermore information please contact e-procurement Helpdesk Phone Numbers:+91-80-46010000, +91-80-68948777.Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLIS Division No-2, Huvinahadagali, Vijayanagara (Dist)

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/440

Bank of Maharashtra

(A Government of India Enterprise)

BENGALURU ZONAL OFFICE
No. 465/A, First Floor, Opp to NMKRV College, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011.

PREMISES REQUIRED ON RENT

Bank of Maharashtra requires suitable premises preferably on Ground Floor with appropriate frontage and sufficient Parking Space on Lease Basis for Opening / Shifting of Branches. The premises requires as below.

Centre Name	Dist. Name	Approx Carpet Area Required
Gottigere Main Road	Bengaluru Urban	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Bannergatta Road	Bengaluru Urban	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Basavanagudi	Bengaluru Urban	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Rajajinagar	Bengaluru Urban	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Gubbi Gate, Tumakuru	Tumakuru	1200 to 1500 Sq. Ft.
J C Road, Tumakuru	Tumakuru	1200 to 1500 Sq. Ft.

The proposed premises should be in an approved building conforming to the conditions stipulated by the Govt. Authorities for commercial use. The owner will obtain NOC, if required from the concerned authority/ies for commercial use. Interested owners having clear title to the premises may submit their sealed offers in the prescribed format in two bids system i.e. 1) Technical Bid, 2) Commercial Bid in two separate sealed envelopes and the format of bid can be downloaded from our website **www.bankofmaharashtra.in** under Tender section or can be obtained in person from the above mentioned office address.

Interested owners having clear title over the property may submit their sealed offers in two - bid system by **10/01/2026 time 5:00 PM**. Offers with incomplete details / information and received after last date and time are liable for rejection.

Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons what so ever. Offers received from other than owners will not be considered. Offers from brokers will not be considered. For any further details contact us at **gad_ban@mahabank.co.in/staff_ban@mahabank.co.in, Ph. No: 9164111081 / 8838394957 Offers to be submitted to: The Zonal Manager, Bank of Maharashtra**, Bengaluru Zonal Office, No.465/A, 1st Floor, Opp. to NMKRV College for Women, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar. Bengaluru-560011.

Date: 04/01/2026 **Sd/- Zonal Manager**
Place: Bengaluru **Bank of Maharashtra, Bengaluru Zone.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ3 ಬೀಳಗಿ **Phone & Fax No: 08425-275228 e-mail: eeknnlglbcdn.3bilagi@gmail.com**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಸಂ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಘಎದಂಕಾ:ವಿ3:ಡಿಬಿ:ಟಿಎನ್‌ಡಿ:2025-26/1804 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.01.2026 2) ಸಂ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಘಎದಂಕಾ:ವಿ3:ಡಿಬಿ:ಟಿಎನ್‌ಡಿ:2025-26/1805 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.01.2026 3) ಸಂ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಘಎದಂಕಾ:ವಿ3:ಡಿಬಿ:ಟಿಎನ್‌ಡಿ:2025-26/1809 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2026

ಮೆ:ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home) 4701 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

1) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KNNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT3450, KNNL/2025-26/FP/WORK_INDENT3451, KNNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT3449, KNNL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3453, KNNL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3452, KNNL/2025-26/LI/WORK_INDENT3233
2) ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.33.88 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ರಿಂದ ರೂ.160.99 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು , 3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.80,000/- ರಿಂದ ರೂ.2,85,000/-, 4) ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ-03 ಬೀಳಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ:05.01.2026 ರ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ, 5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಕುರಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ/ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ:07.01.2026 ರ 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, 6) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: 12.01.2026 ರ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, 7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು (ಲಕೋಟೆ-1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ:14.01.2026 ರ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, 8) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (ಲಕೋಟೆ-1) ಪೂರ್ವಾಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು (ಲಕೋಟೆ-2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನಿಯಮ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-(ರಾಜಶೇಖರ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ3 ಬೀಳಗಿ

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-485/KSMCA/2025-26

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION, DHARWAD.

SECTION 1: INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (Two Cover System), KW-1,2,3&4
Reg:This office tender Notification No. 12/2025-26 Dated: 02-01-2026

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Dharwad, invites tenders for **Dharwad, Gadag, Hangal and Ranebennur** Sub Division, comes under various HOA in Standard Bid Document **KW-1,2,3,4** through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, **viz.,https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible contractors for the work under various Head of Account on Item Rate basis. Maximum Estimate Amount: **Rs.700.00** Lakhs, Maximum E.M.D amount **Rs.10.50** Lakhs and Minimum Estimate Amount: **Rs.2.00** Lakhs, Minimum E.M.D amount **Rs.5000**; Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal is from **03/01/2026** upto 30 Days step by step. And any other Corrigendum/Addendum and Postponement of Notification, changes in the dates, if any will be published only through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website **@ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.**

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION,
DHARWAD

COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CAUVERY BASIN PROJECTS MYSORE

Office of the Executive Engineer, CADA No. 1 Division, CBP Tumkur
Telephone no. :0816-2006073 **E-Mail: eecada1tumkur@gmail.com**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION: 09/2025-26 Dated: 31-12-2025 (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only) (K/G-2)

On behalf of the Administrator, CADA, CBP, Mysore, The Executive Engineer, CADA No.1 Division, CBP, Tumkur has invited Item rate tender in "Two Tender Document System" for the works of **"Supplying of HDPE Fabric tarpaulins under Agricultural Implement of Participatory Irrigation Management Programme of Command Area Development Authority (CADA) of Cauvery Basin Projects, Mysore for the Year-2025-26"** amounting to **Rs. 119.36 Lakhs (Excluding GST)** through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1. Tender Documents can be downloaded from: **02.01.2026** onwards
2. Last date and time for submission of tender :**09.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM**
3. Date and Time for opening of tender (Technical Bid): **12.01.2026, 11.30 AM** onwards
4. Date and Time for opening of Financial bid (After approval of Technical Bid)

For Further details, interested bidders may access bidding documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and contact this office during working hours.

Sd/- Exective Engineer
CADA-CBP No.1 Division.
Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/RO-209/24-25/Oysters

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

e-mail: eephbhpt@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA.
Parmanandpur, Railway Station Road, Bhawanipatna, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN-766002

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No. ACEPHD-BHPT–67 of 2025-26/ Dt. 31.12.2025

e-Procurement Notice

01. Name of the Work	: 1 No Work
02. Type of Bid	: Double Bid System
03. Approx. Estimated Cost	: Rs.637.67 Lakh
04. Period of Completion	: 9 Calendar Months
05. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt.06.01.2026 to 5.00 PM of 20.01.2026
06. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal.	: 5.00 PM of 20.01.2026
07. Date & Time of opening of technical bids	: At 11:30 AM of 21.01.2026.
08. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer, P.H.Division, Bhawanipatna, Railway Station Road, At/Po-Parmanandpur-766002. Dist.-Kalahandi.

Further details can be seen from the website **http://tenders.ori.nic.in** or **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Addl. Chief Engineer, P.H.Division, Bhawanipatna.

C-1961: OIPR-13059/11/0070/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

No.5803 / Date : 26/12/2025 **Corrigendum**

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.Tender-Online-C.C.43 of 2025 Dated 29.11.2025 invited vide this office Lr. No.5360 dated 29.11.2025

The date of availability of tender, date of opening of Technical Bid & Financial Bid invited vide this office N.I.T. No.Tender-Online-C.C.-43 of 2025 Dt-29.11.2025 issued vide this office Lr.No.5360 Dt-29.11.2025 is here by rescheduled as below due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Date & Time of Opening of tender	
		Up to	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender-Online-C.C.-43 of 2025	16.01.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.	17.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated later on

All other conditions remain unaltered.

Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.

O-1929: OIPR-25082/11/0049/2526

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar.

No:EO/KVAFSU(B)/T.No-144/15th Convocation/Pendal/2025-26/ Date: 01.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works/ Goods / Services details Providing shamiyana ,Sound System, Seating & other arrangements for 15th convocation of the University scheduled **on 17.01.2026 at KVAFSU, campus Nandinagar Bidar.** 2) Works/ Goods / Services estimated Amount As mentioned e-portal, 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal, 4) Works/ Goods / Services Tender Amount Details As mentioned e-portal, 5) Last date for obtaining blank tender forms **09.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** 6) Cost of Tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal, 7) Last Date for submitting application **09.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM ,** 8) Opening of Technical bid **10.01.2026 at 11.30 AM,** 9) Opening of Financial Bid **12.01.2026 at 11.30 AM ,**10) For more details contact office address, contract No Office of the Estate Officer, KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 11) Website details e-procurement portal KPP Portal

DIPR/Bidar/287/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1&3/e-Tender/2025-26/ 2401, Dated: 03.01.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3&4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under 4059 CMIDP(Plan) for the year 2025-26 Under Yadgir Taluka-(1)29483, Shorapur Taluka-(1)29714, (2)29718, (3)29722, (4)29716, (5)29723 & (6)29717, Shahapur Taluka-(1)29367, (2)29368, (3)29369, (4)29474, (5)29364, (6)29365 and (7)29366 Totally 14 (Fourteen) works Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Miminimum Rs 100.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.950.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** Civil Class-III & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:** 09.01.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/ Clarification:** 13.01. 2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:**17.01.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 19.01.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 21.01.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir.**11) Website Address:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

DIP/YDG/451/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-4/TENDER/2025-26/5763 DATE: 02/01/2026

Time Extension e-Tender Notification-1

This Office E-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-4/TENDER/2025-26/5682 Dated 30/12/2025 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the works at Sl No. 6, 15 & 16 is as below.

Calendar of events:1)Pre-bid meeting date: 17-01-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 19-01-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 21-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM,4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 23-01-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1579/KSMCA/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are informed that, my client is willing purchase the **Item No.I,** Site demarcated as **Site No.900-B Block,BBMPE-Khatha PID No.1755290362**, situated at Sy.Nos.6/1, 6/2, 8/1, 8/2, 8/3, 8/4, 8/5, 8/6, 10/1, 10/3, 15/1P, 15/2P, 17P, 18, 19, 21/1, 21/2, 21/3, 22/1, 22/2, 23/1, 23/2, 23/3, 23/4, 23/5, 23/6, 27/7, 23/8, 23/9, 23/10, 23/11, 23/12, 23/12, 23/13, 25/1, 25/2, 25/3, 25/4, 25/5, 25/6, 26/1P, 26/3, 27/1A, 27/1B, 27/2, 28/1A, 28/1B,28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 29/1, 29/2, 30/1, 30/2, 31, 32/2, 32/3, 36, 38, 39, 43/1, 44, 46, 61/1, 61/2, 62, 63, 64, 67/1, 67/2, 67/3, 67/4, 67/6, 68/1, 72/1, 72/2, 72/3, 72/4, 73, 74, 75/1, 75/2, 75/3, 75/4, 75/5, 75/6, 75/7, 75/8, 75/9, 76/1, 76/3, 76/4, 77/1, 77/2, 77/3, 77/4, 77/5, 77/6, 78, 79/1, 79/2, 79/3, 79/4, 79/5, 79/6, 81/3B, 83, 84, 85, 91/1, 91/2, 94/1, 94/2, 95, 96/1P, 96/2, 96/3, 97/1B, 97/2, 102/1, 102/2, 103/1, 103/3, 103/4, 103/5B, 103/6, 104/2, 105/1P, 105/2, 105/3, 106/1P, 106/2P, 106/3, 106/4, 106/5, 106/6, 109, 111/1 and 111/2 of Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, in the layout plan of the Society approved by the Bangalore Development Authority and as per the order of the Bangalore Development Authority dated 12.11.1992,No.BDA/TPM/DD/1263/92-93, now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara PalikeWard No.191-Singasandra, measuring East to West 60ft., and North to South 40ft., (in all measuring 2400Sq.ft.,) and bounded on: **East by:** Site No.882; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Additional Land; **South by:** Site No.899 from the present owners namely **Sri.A.Periasami,** S/o. S.Adimoolam and **Smt.Sharadha,** W/o. Sri.A.Periasami and **Item No.II, Site No.209,** (Two Hundred and Nine), Municipal No.209, PID No.65-51-209, **BBMP E-Khatha PID No.2663847717**, layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated at BTM (EWS) Extension/Layout, Bangalore City, measuring **East to West 9.00Mtrs., (Nine Point Zero Zero)** and **North to South 5.70Mtrs., (Five Point Seven Zero)** along with constructed building thereon, now comes under the jurisdiction ofBruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara PalikeWard No.176-BTM Layout., and bounded on:East by : Road; West by: Site No.188; North by: Road; South by: Site No.208;from the present owner namely **Sri.Muniraju.L,** S/o.Sri.Lachamappa.

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication, to the undersigned,

Devika Kumari.A., Advocate.,
No.1115, Ground Floor, 26th 'B' Main,
41st Cross, 9th Block Jayanagar,
Bangalore- 560 069. Mob: 9480620781.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Department of AYUSH)
Zilla Panchayath, Ballari, Office of the District Ayush Office Ballari. Veeranagouda Colony, Ashoka Nagar, Near Bhagya Hospital, Opposite Kumarswamy Temple, Ballari-583101 email: dao.Bellary09@gmail.com.

No:DAOV/EST/08/2025-26 **Dated: 01.01.2026**

E- Tender Notification

District Ayush Officer, District Ayush Office, Vijayanagar has Invited e-tender in Gem portal to procure Ayush Medicines with the estimated cost of Rs. 96.76 lakhs in two bid cover system as per KTPP act and Gem portal from eligible registered tenderers. Tenderer may be download the application and upload the filled e-tender application in Gem with EMD amount until 20.01.2026 @ 05.00 pm.

Sd/- District Ayush Officer, Vijayanagara.

DIPR/Ballari/858/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.5, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192-264669
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eebcddvg@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ/ಭ.ನಾ.ವಿ.5/ದಾ/ಟಿ.ಬಿ-2/2700 ಮ್ಯಾನ್‌ಪವರ್-Call-3/2025-26/2012 ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.01.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- EE/KNNL/No.5/BCD/DVG/PB/2700-Manpower Supply/Call-3/2025-26/2011, Dt:02.01.2026

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2700 ಭದ್ರಾ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.87.97 (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಸೇರಿ)ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ದಿ:03.01.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿ: 12-01-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-01-2026 ರಂದು 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KNNL/2025-26/SE0240/Call-3

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರೀಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/618/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)

No. GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(MIS)/EE(RA)/AEE(RA)/AO(RA)/2025-26/73577-83 Dated: 03.01.2026

:: NOTIFICATION ::

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION, No.16, C-1, MILLERS TANK BED AREA, VASANTHANAGAR, BANGALORE – 560 052

IN THE MATTER OF:

An application for Annual Performance Review for 2024-25 of Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited under Section 61 & 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with relevant provisions of KERC (Tariff) Regulations, KERC (Terms & Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail Sale of Electricity) Regulations, 2006 and KERC (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024.

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM), Station Main Road, Kalaburagi 585102 **...... PETITIONER**

NOTICE

1. Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (GESCOM) has filed an application before the Hon'ble Commission for Annual Performance Review for the financial year 2024-25 viz-a-viz the Annual Revenue Requirement for 2024-25 approved in Tariff Order-2024 dated 28.02.2024. The Hon'ble Commission is in the process of considering the same. The summary of the application is as below;
2. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Financial position of GESCOM in 2024-25 against the ARR approved by the Hon'ble Commission in the Tariff Order-2024 is indicated below;

Sl. No.	Particulars	As approved by KERC in Tariff Order 2024	GESCOM Proposal for APR based on Annual Accounts
	Energy Sales (MU)	9132.57	8986.82
A.	**INCOME (Rs.in Cr):**		
	Revenue from sale of power	**7789.88**	**8123.09**
B.	**EXPENDITURE (Rs.in Cr):**		
i.	Power Purchase cost including Tr. Charges	6218.46	6332.28
ii.	O&M Costs	1195.39	1274.16
iii.	Depreciation	252.86	245.24
iv.	Interest & Finance Charges	378.29	550.09
v.	Return on Equity	0.00	326.09
vi.	Other Debits	0.00	0.00
vii.	Funds towards consumer contribution	0.50	0.00
viii.	**Less: Other income**	**(177.83)**	**(136.87)**
ix	Less: Penalty for increase in distribution loss beyond upper limit	0.00	(10.76)
	Total Expenditure (i to ix):	7867.67	8580.22
	APR surplus/Deficit of previous year	111.28	0.00
	Net Expenditure	**7756.39**	**8580.22**
C.	Net Surplus /(Deficit) (A-B)	**33.49**	**(457.13)**

3. The Net Revenue Deficit of Rs. 457.13 Crores may be passed on to the consumers, as may be decided by the Commission, in terms of MYT Regulations.
4. Application filed before Commission is also available at all O&M Circle Offices (Offices of the Superintending Engineers, (Ele), Kalaburagi, Bidar, Bellari, Raichur, Koppal and GESCOM, Corporate Office, Station main Road , Kalaburagi – 585102.
5. Pursuant to Section 5 of KERC (Tariff) Regulations, 2000 and read with relevant provisions of KERC (Tariff) Regulations, KERC (Terms & Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail Sale of Electricity) Regulations, 2006 and KERC (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024, it is hereby notified that the persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above petition may file the same with the Receiving Officer, O/o the Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No.16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore – 560 052, along with the documents on which they want to rely upon, in six sets, duly supported by an affidavit within thirty days from the date of first publication of this Tariff Notification and also indicate whether they want to be heard in person. A copy of the objection may be marked to Superintending Engineer (Ele.,) MIS, Corporate Office, Station main Road , Kalaburagi – 585102 for furnishing replies to the objections.
6. For reference of those who are interested, copies of the petition are available for inspection at all O&M Circle Offices (Offices of the Superintending Engineers, (Ele), Kalaburagi, Bidar, Bellari, Raichur, Koppal).
7. They may also obtain copies of the required portion of the petition by paying photocopying charges.
8. Further, full set of the petition together with supporting material will also be made available to the interested persons by the Superintending Engineer Ele., of, O&M Circles as in para 4, on payment of Rs. 700/- and the same is also available for sale at GESCOM Corporate Office, Station main Road , Kalaburagi – 585102.
9. The soft copy of the APR petition can be viewed on the website of GESCOM **(https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in/).**

For Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.,)
MIS Corporate Office, Station main Road , Kalaburagi – 585102

DIPR/Kalaburagi/931/KSMC&A/2025-26

Ballari clash: Violence more a continuation than aberration in this 'republic'

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

The violent clash late on Thursday between supporters of Ballari MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and Gangavati MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy, which claimed the life of a young Congress activist Rajashekhar, was not an aberration.

It was a grim reminder of Ballari's distinctive political culture, shaped by factional loyalties, inherited rivalries and a relentless struggle for dominance that has defined this mining-rich district for decades.

Ballari's politics has long existed in a universe of its own, detached from the relatively placid rhythms of Karnataka's mainstream political culture.

In many ways, it resembles the neighbouring Kurnool, Anantapur, Kadapa, and Chittoor districts of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, where politics is marked by intense factionalism.

Ballari district sits atop some of India's richest mineral deposits, including vast iron ore reserves that account for nearly a quarter of the country's known stock. FILE PHOTO

Family rivalries, personalised enmities and the routine use of force have long been part of political grammar here, celebrated and normalised in several Telugu films.

Many of the district's dominant political families are Telugu-speaking, with roots across the border.

Mining wealth

If Rayalaseema culture provided the temperament, Ballari's mineral wealth supplied the muscle. The district sits atop some of India's richest mineral deposits, including vast iron ore reserves that account for nearly a quarter of the country's known stock, besides manganese, red oxide, copper, lead, limestone and granite. These riches, which could have made Ballari one of Karnataka's most prosperous regions, has instead enriched a handful of powerful families and entrenched factional dominance.

Across party lines, Ballari's political heavyweights have either been miners themselves or deeply enmeshed in the mining economy. Party affiliations have remained fluid, but the sources of money and muscle strikingly constant.

Elections in Ballari are therefore fought on a scale and with an intensity rarely seen elsewhere in rural Karnataka. Money flows freely, and the display of force becomes an appeal for votes. Campaigns involve convoys of high-end SUVs packed with armed supporters.

Mining boom

The apogee of this model came during the mining boom of the late 2000s, when Mr. Janardhan Reddy and his brothers' grip over politics, administration and the local economy was so complete that Ballari came to be described as the "Ballari Republic".

The 2008 Assembly elections and the 2009 Lok Sabha polls were held at a time when iron ore extraction was at its peak, catapulting the brothers to unprecedented influence.

The BJP's emergence as the single largest party in 2008, with 110 seats in a 222-member Assembly, owed much to the organisational and financial muscle centred in Ballari.

Falling just short of a majority, the party crossed the halfway mark through a controversial strategy called "Operation Lotus", in which legislators from rival parties were induced to resign, contest byelections on BJP ticket and return to the House. Mr. Janardhan Reddy played a pivotal role in engineering the manoeuvre that installed South India's first BJP government, led by B.S. Yediyurappa.

That dominance, however, proved unsustainable. A series of illegal mining cases brought the boom to a sudden halt, and judicial intervention, including Supreme Court restrictions, barred Mr. Janardhan Reddy from entering Ballari district for over a decade. His prolonged absence weakened his grip on the local political machinery. Younger leaders, most notably Mr. Bharath Reddy, consolidated their bases.

A turning point

The 2023 Assembly elections marked a symbolic turning point. Mr. Bharath Reddy's emphatic victory over Gali Lakshmi Aruna, Mr. Janardhan Reddy's wife, was widely seen as a generational shift in Ballari's power structure.

A few days before the announcement of the Sandur byelection in November 2024, the Supreme Court lifted the long-standing restrictions that had kept him out of Ballari district for nearly 13 years. The timing of Mr. Janardhan Reddy's return proved politically explosive.

Though formally a contest between the Congress and the BJP, the bypoll turned into a high-stakes proxy war between two powerful mining barons, Labour Minister Santosh Lad and Mr. Janardhan Reddy. It ended in a clear setback for Mr. Janardhan Reddy, as the Lad-backed Congress candidate E. Annapurna defeated the BJP nominee.

Against this backdrop, Thursday's violent clash, involving firearms, appears less a sudden breakdown of law and order than a continuation of a long and troubled political tradition where factional rivalries have rarely remained confined to rhetoric or ballot boxes.

From Page One

Did fatal bullet come from Congress MLA's gunman in Ballari?

Ballari MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and district in-charge Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Jindal Airport in Toranagal on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, only a forensic ballistic examination could confirm it, said the sources.

"The said gunman is missing and a hunt is on for him," a senior police officer said, expressing confidence that he will be traced soon.

There are also multiple videos of the gunmen of Mr. Bharath Reddy firing their pistols in the air, that the police were analysing, the sources said.

No SP yet

Over 24 hours after Ballari Superintendent of Police Pavan Nejjur was suspended over dereliction of duty on Friday, the district has not had a new Superintendent of police posted till late on Saturday. The delay in posting a replacement when the district is amidst a law and order crisis has raised eyebrows.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bharath Reddy and district incharge Minister B. Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the district's Toranagal's Jindal Airport, where he was in transit from Sindhanur to Bengaluru. The Chief Minister also took details of the incident from senior police officials.

CM warns of stir seeking repeal of VB-G RAM G Act

The Centre, he alleged, had 'killed Mahatma Gandhi for the second time' by abrogating MGNREGA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that on the lines of the farmers' protest that compelled the Centre to withdraw farm laws, a protest would be launched with like-minded political parties and organisations representing the poor to demand repeal of the new Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) and restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA).

Addressing a joint press conference with Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar and other Ministers, he demanded that the Centre repeal the new law to guarantee the right to work for the rural poor, labourers, and women.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, flanked by his Cabinet colleagues, at a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Panchayat system

He alleged that the NDA government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had "killed Mahatma Gandhi for the second time" by repealing the job scheme named after Gandhiji. While Mahatma Gandhi advocated Gram Swaraj, the Centre had "destroyed the panchayat system" by curtailing the rights of the rural local bodies to identify and allot work under the scheme.

Calling the move "unconstitutional and anti-federal", he cited Articles 258 and 280, and the 73rd Constitutional Amendment to allege that the Centre had taken away the powers of the gram panchayats.

MGNREGA, which was introduced 20 years ago by the UPA-I government in 2005, ensured several rights for the poor and the common people, including the right to work, Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled.

He argued that the repeal of MGNREGA would lead to increased unemployment, migration, loss of minimum wage protection, exploitation of labour, reduced participation of women in labour, and hardship for Dalit and Adivasi families.

RSS idea

The Chief Minister charged that this was being done at the behest of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Referring to Manu Smriti, he said it propagated the idea that women, Shudras, and Dalits should not possess wealth and should live by working for others.

He said that the RSS, inspired by such ideology, was now attempting to implement these ideas by curtailing the rights of the people.

He said that under the new VB-G RAM G Act, employment had been converted from a demand-driven scheme to a supply-driven one. The Chief Minister, who holds the Finance portfolio, said the new Act would impose an additional burden of nearly ₹3,000 crore annually on the State government.

Earlier, the Centre bore 90% of expenditure under MGNREGA. The new law mandated States to contribute 40% of the cost.

Rolling out data, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that MGNREGA supported around 12.16 crore workers across the country, of whom 6.21 crore were women, accounting for nearly 54% of the workforce.

In Karnataka, there were 71.18 lakh active MGNREGA workers, including 36.75 lakh women. He had written to Mr. Modi, on December 31, 2025, opposing the legislation.

Mr. Shivakumar said the issue was not political but concerned the livelihoods of the poor. He questioned the silence of BJP leaders on the matter and said that even BJP-ruled States would be adversely affected by the new law.

Command centre launched to address man-animal conflict

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following increasing incidents of man-animal conflict, the Karnataka Forest Department on Saturday launched an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for better monitoring and management with advanced tech tools. The ICCC will be the hub in Bengaluru that connects as many as 11 Divisional Command and Control Centre (DCCC) across the State.

The Integrated Command and Control Centre which was launched in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The 11 divisions include M.M. Hills, Madikeri, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Mangaluru, and Bannerghatta National Park divisions, besides five tiger reserves of Nagarahole, Bandipur, Bhadra, BRT, and Kali.

While the DCCCs study complaints and grievances of conflict at the divisional level and look into deploying a quick reaction force, the ICCC looks into monitoring and evaluation of the work done. The centre will provide alerts and views the developments across divisions from one dashboard and suggest mitigation measures. Public can reach out on the number 1926 on any grievance, crime or conflict-related situation.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre, who inaugurated ICCC at Malleswaram here, said ICCC helped in reducing the response time, while at the same time it used technology for preventive actions.

The command centre will keep an eye on the work done at the ground level, starting with monitoring of patrolling through GPS-based application, keeping watch on sensitive areas or places that are vulnerable to conflict as well monitoring problem elephants which are fitted with radio collars.

Forest area

Mr. Khandre, who met officials, said the government would provide the necessary technology. He said Karnataka had 43,000 sq km of forest area and only forest staff could not guard it effectively.

'Silk industry should focus on marketing, brand positioning'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Silk marketing, brand positioning, value creation, and expansion of domestic and global markets should be the immediate focus areas for India's sericulture industry, urged Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles.

She was addressing industry players, silk farmers, and the scientific community at the opening day of a two-day directors' conference of sericulture practising States and Union Territories that commenced here on Saturday.

Ms. Rao said industry stakeholders have to work towards bridging the gap between the demand and the supply of silk by maintaining consistent quality standards and strengthening testing mechanisms, building consumer trust, and increasing production of the commodity.

Karnataka has 1,18,000 hectares under mulberry cultivation

According to her, Silk Mark authentication has been helping Indian silks in enhancing their credibility and value both in domestic and global markets. Ms. Rao also said, recent initiatives such as Seri Tourism at Manasbal in Jammu and Kashmir has been giving an extra boost to the industry.

According to her, the heat (climate) mapping of sericulture clusters and districts reflected the Ministry's commitments towards spreading silk farming countrywide, a privilege not currently available forother natural fibres.

Speaking at a session on Automatic Silk Reeling Machines (ARMs), K.N. Ravi, Joint Director, Department of Sericulture, Karnataka, said adoption of technology and introduction of e-markets in Karnataka have been helping all key stakeholders in the industry comprising farmers, reelers and bidders through tech interventions.

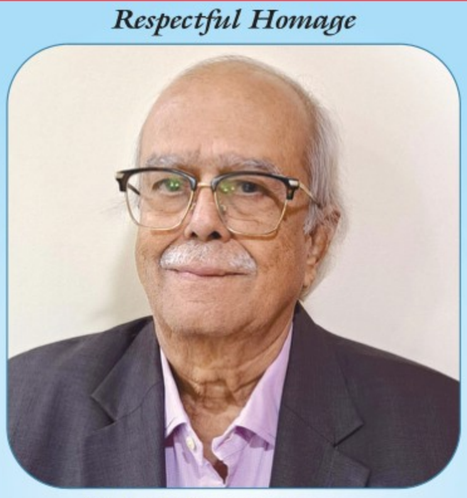
Karnataka, the lead player in sericulture industry, accounting for over 40% of the country's total silk production, has a mandate to produce 14,150 tonnes of raw silk by March, 2026, as against 13,276 tonnes it produced in the previous year, according data shared at the conference titled "Strengthening The Silk Value Chain for Inclusive Growth."

The State has 1,18,000 hectares of land under mulberry cultivation, involving around 1,48,500 sericulture farmers, and together they produced 93,624 tonnes of cocoon and 13,276 tonnes of raw silk during last financial year. The State has a total of 40 cocoon markets in which 16 of them are seed markets and 24 are commercial markets operated by the government.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Respectful Homage



Shri. T.S.Venkataraman
(10.04.1945 - 30.12.2025)
Chairman and Managing Director
Esvin Advanced Technologies Ltd

Deeply mourned by Directors & Employees of

SESHASAYEE PAPER AND BOARDS LIMITED
PONNI SUGARS (ERODE) LIMITED
HIGH ENERGY BATTERIES (INDIA) LIMITED
SPB PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCY LIMITED
ESVIN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

DEATH

Shri. T. THIRUMALAI
15.10.1931 - 02.01.2026
Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi
Survived by wife **Radha**
children **Krishnakumar, Madhav Narayan, Lakshmi**
and their families

DOB: 15.01.1928 DOD: 27.12.2025
With Profound grief, we announce the demise of our beloved father,
A.M. KRISHNAMURTHY
Adayapalam (Retd. S.S.Hr.School, Arni)
Passed away on 27th Dec at 11 pm at his son house. Dasasthu - 05.01.2026 7am at Gnanavapi, T.Nagar, Ch-17.
Subhasvikaranam on 08.01.2026
Sons: A K.Ravisankar & Sumathi
A.K.Ramesh & Deepa
Sons-in-law:
N. Sivakumar & Sandhiya
N.Sekar & Latha
Grandchildren:
Vinoth, Vicky, Abhishek, Sruthi, Rahul, Dhrishya & Anvi. Chennai
Scan QR for location
Ph: 8825456881, 8144224004

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

V. M. SARANGAPANY
04/01/1922 - 17/11/2000
Deeply Missed
Kumari and Sree Pragassh
Lygia and Vivek Vellore
Ajay, Ananth and Adhiti

REMEMBRANCE

In loving remembrance

DR. MATTHAI ABRAHAM
8th May 1911 – 4th Jan 1993
His family

Takahashi Muneo, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan, giving the award to Urmila Satyanarayanan, at the Music Academy, in the presence of Academy president N. Murali. M. SRINATH

Nritya Kalanidhi award conferred on Urmila Satyanarayanan

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Bharatanatyam exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan was presented the Nritya Kalanidhi award at the 19th Dance Festival inaugurated at the Music Academy in the city on Saturday.

Presenting the award, Takahashi Muneo, Consul-General, Consulate General of Japan in Chennai, said the honour recognised not only her artistic excellence but also her lifelong commitment to the preservation and propagation of Bharatanatyam.

Drawing parallels between Indian and Japanese dance traditions, he said classical Japanese forms such as Noh, Kabuki and Nihon Buyo emphasised controlled movement and discipline – aspects that resonate strongly with Indian classical dances. Both traditions, he said, share a deep respect for heritage and the teacher-disciple lineage.

Mr. Muneo said many Japanese students had travelled to India to learn Bharatanatyam, while several renowned Indian dancers had taught and performed in Japan, serving as a powerful example of how culture can connect nations.

Accepting the award, Ms. Satyanarayanan expressed gratitude to her teachers, students and the Music Academy. Recalling that her *arangetram* was at the Music Academy, she said receiving the award from the renowned institution was a milestone in the life of a dancer.

Earlier, N. Murali, president of the Music Academy and Director of The Hindu Group of Publications, said the award to Ms. Satyanarayanan came at an important stage in her artistic journey – 50 years after her *arangetram* and 30 years since she founded the dance school 'Natya Sankalpa'. She is known for her improvisation and innovation, with several acclaimed thematic presentations and dance dramas to her credit, he said.

Madras High Court appoints conservationist to study pollution of Thamirabarani

The court says Rajendra Singh is permitted to take the assistance of Balaji Rangaramanujam, who has done commendable work in Dindigul and undertake field visits on dates convenient to him

B.Tilak Chandar
MADURAI

Dissatisfied with the progress made by the Tamil Nadu government with regard to checking the pollution of Thamirabarani river, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has appointed eminent water conservationist and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Rajendra Singh as Commissioner to undertake a detailed study of the river, and suggest appropriate remedial measures.

A Division Bench of Justices G.R. Swaminathan and B. Pugalendhi said, "We have passed several orders with regard to checking the pollution in

Rajendra Singh

Thamirabarani river. We have already involved the District Administration, the Water Resources Department, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, as well as the State government. Even though we have been engaged in the exercise for more than a year, we are not satisfied with the progress. Effective solutions have not been placed before us."

"In these circumstances, we have thought it fit to appoint Mr. Rajendra Singh as Commissioner to undertake a detailed study of the state of Thamirabarani and suggest appropriate remedial measures," the Bench said.

"Mr. Rajendra Singh, an eminent water conservationist and environmentalist, has restored streams and rivers in Rajasthan that had gone dry. We are confident that with his hands-on experience in the field, he will be able to come out with a feasible and workable proposal. We are equally confident that his suggestions will be taken seriously by all stakeholders and implemented in full so that the river regains its pristine purity," the court said.

Mr. Rajendra Singh is permitted to take the assistance of Mr. Balaji Rangaramanujam, who has done commendable field work in Dindigul, the court said. He may undertake field visits on dates that are convenient to him. All stakeholders, including the district administration as well as officials of the TNPCB and WRD, are directed to extend their assistance to the Commissioner, the court said.

The court was hearing a contempt petition filed by S. Kamaraj alias Muthalakurichi Kamaraj of Thoothukudi district.

Maoist commander, 19 cadres surrender in TG

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A senior commander of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) and a State Committee member of the CPI (Maoist) surrendered before the Telangana Police on Saturday, along with 18 other cadres. PLGA is the military wing of the CPI (Maoist).

Officials described the surrender as a major setback to the outlawed organisation. Among those who surrended are the commander of the PLGA battalion, Badse Sukka, alias Deva (49), and member of the Telangana State Committee Kankanala Raji Reddy, alias Venkatesh (50). They also handed over 48 firearms and more than 2,200 rounds of ammunition. Telangana DGP Shivadhar Reddy said that this marked the collapse of the last remaining PLGA battalion and left the Telangana State Committee with only one senior functionary still underground.

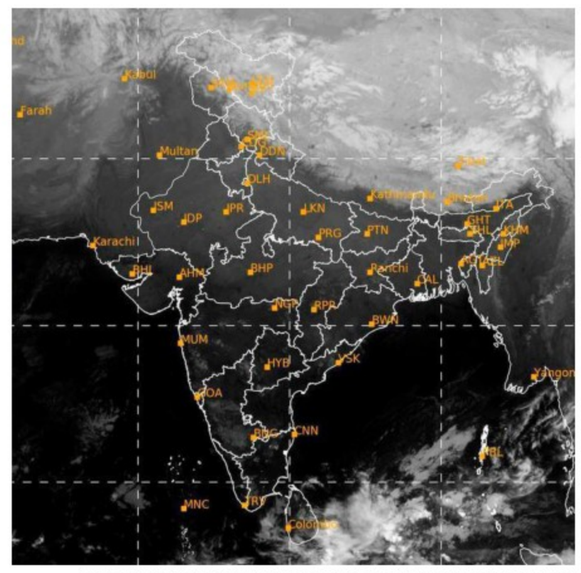
He said the weapons included light machine guns, AK-47 rifles, INSAS rifles, SLRs, a US-made Colt rifle, an Israel-made Tavor rifle, grenades and other arms. Cash amounting to ₹20.30 lakh was handed over.

The police said that Badse Sukka, a native of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh, was one of the most important tribal leaders in the CPI (Maoist) after the death of Madvi Hidma. He joined the organisation in 2003 and later rose through the ranks. acquiring expertise in guerrilla warfare, explosives and arms manufacturing. The police said multiple States, including Telangana and Chhattisgarh, and the NIA had announced rewards totalling ₹75 lakh on him.

Kankanala Raji Reddy, a native of Peddapalli district in Telangana, joined the movement in 1997 and was elevated as a State Committee member in 2019.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	20.8	11.5	Kozhikode	—	33.4	23.8
Ahmedabad	—	25.4	15.0	Kurnool	—	30.9	19.2
Aizawl	—	21.0	9.0	Lucknow	—	16.9	11.4
Allahabad	—	17.0	11.8	Madurai	—	32.5	21.5
Bengaluru	—	27.3	17.4	Mangaluru	—	31.2	22.0
Bhopal	—	20.2	11.0	Mumbai	—	30.1	18.7
Bhubaneswar	—	25.0	15.0	Mysuru	—	29.2	18.4
Chandigarh	—	15.4	9.6	New Delhi	—	17.3	8.1
Chennai	—	29.2	24.2	Patna	—	14.4	10.8
Coimbatore	—	31.3	21.6	Port Blair	—	29.7	26.1
Dehradun	—	17.5	8.9	Puducherry	—	28.5	22.6
Gangtok	—	10.9	5.9	Pune	—	30.9	17.7
Goa	—	31.8	21.1	Raipur	—	28.1	15.9
Guwahati	—	24.3	15.5	Ranchi	—	22.8	12.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	18.0	Shillong	—	15.0	7.0
Hyderabad	—	27.3	19.6	Shimla	—	13.0	1.0
Imphal	—	22.9	10.1	Srinagar	—	9.2	-1.5
Jaipur	—	18.0	11.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.6	23.3
Kochi	—	32.3	23.8	Tiruchi	9	29.9	22.0
Kohima	—	12.8	5.0	Vijayawada	—	29.4	21.2
Kolkata	—	24.2	12.8	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	20.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.79	..63	.72	...110	...132	
Bengaluru	...5	..15	.25	...142	...156	
Chennai	...6	4	.20	...160	...103	
Delhi	.36	..68	121	...329	...282	
Hyderabad	...7	..17	.87	...114	...133	
Kolkata	.11	130	.39	...305	...214	
Lucknow	...5	..44	.59	...230	...179	
Mumbai	.27	..76	.45	...122	...112	
Pune	..—	..41	.51	...284	...203	
Visakhapatnam	.16	..46	.38	...224	...154	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Talcher, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 332 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

The fishermen had been staying near Kodiyakkarai for the past two months for fishing activities and ventured into the sea on Friday afternoon. FILE PHOTO

Sri Lankan Navy arrests nine T.N. fishermen

The Hindu Bureau
NAGAPATTINAM

Nine fishermen from Mayiladuthurai district were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday morning while fishing near Kodiyakkarai off the Nagapattinam coast.

According to official sources, the fishermen had been staying near Kodiyakkarai for the past two months for fishing activities and ventured into the sea on Friday afternoon. They were intercepted by the Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday morning on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Two mechanised fishing boats were seized.

The arrested fishermen were identified as Vadamalai Anburaj, 30, the boat driver; Kaliyaperumal Kumar, 35; Ponnukutty Regan, 19; Manokaran Kowshik, 26; and Kaliyaperumal Ponnukutty, 45. They were all travelling in one boat. The second boat was manned by Kasi Thangarasu, 45; Thangarasu Mathan, 21; Kasiraja Selvaraj, 48; and Kannayi Ramalingam, 50. All nine hail from Mayiladuthurai district. The fishermen, along with the seized boats, were taken to the Kankesanthurai naval base for further inquiry, sources said. It may be noted that the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 11 fishermen from Karaikal on Friday for allegedly crossing the IMBL while fishing southeast off Kodiyakkarai.

CM writes to Centre

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday wrote to Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar urging him to take up the issue through appropriate diplomatic channels and prevent further apprehensions of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy. He also urged the Union Minister to secure the immediate release of all detained fishermen along with their fishing boats.

In his letter, Mr. Stalin referred to the recent arrests, and said: "It is a matter of grave concern that the incidents of arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen and seizure of their fishing boats by Sri Lankan authorities continue unabated." As of now, a total of 251 fishing boats belonging to Tamil Nadu and 73 fishermen, including those apprehended in this latest incident, remain under Sri Lankan custody.

These repeated apprehensions have led to immense hardship, anxiety, and distress among the coastal fishing communities of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA **e-Procurement Notice**
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CENTRAL MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Phone-0674-2540559 ; Mail ID:cmic.bbsr@gmail.com
No.1580 /CMIC Date : 30.12.2025

The Additional Chief Engineer, Central Minor Irrigation Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through e-procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

e- Procurement Notice - BID ID.No.ACE-CMIC-04/2025-26

1.	Name of the Work	As per Annexure to this bid notice
2.	No. of Works	02 (Two) Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost	Approximately Rs.106.89 Lakh to Rs.125.31 Lakh.
4.	Class of Contractor	B & A
5.	Period of Completion	7 (Seven) Calendar Months
6.	Date and Time of Availability of Bid Documents and Receipt of Bid Cost on online Payment mode in Portal	From 05.01.2026 (10.00 A.M.) to 15.01.2026 (05.30 PM) in Website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
7.	Last Date / Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	15.01.2026 (Upto 05.30 P.M.) through online only.
8.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	11:00 AM Onwards on 16.01.2026 in the O/o - ACE, Central M.I. Circle, Bhubaneswar.
9.	Name and address of OIT	Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I.Circle, Bhubaneswar. Plot No.-A-8/2, Po:Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar. PIN:751022, Dist: Khurda. Ph: 0674-2540559.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement market place : http://tendersorissa.gov.in

A-1215 : Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I.Circle, Bhubaneswar.
OIPR-32047/11/0014/2526

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi)
K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore - 560042
Tel: 080-25581238, www.apsbangalore.edu.in

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON TERM BASIS (FOUR ACADEMIC YEARS)

(PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO CANDIDATES WHO ARE HAVING AWES OST EXAM (ONLINE SCREENING TEST) SCORE CARD WITH MIN OVERALL RAW SCORE OF 50% i.e. 100 MARKS)

Sl.No	Post & Subject	Qualification Required
1.	Post Graduate Teachers (PGT) 1.1 Informatics Practices, 1.2 Sociology, 1.3 Legal Studies 1.4 Fine Arts	For Senior Secondary Classes (XI & XII) Qualification: Post Graduate in the subject and BEd/MEd with at least 50% marks in each. For Informatics Practices – At least 50% marks in aggregate in BE/BTech/MCA/MSc in Computer Sci/IT and BEd with min 50% aggregate Marks.
2.	Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) 2.1 English 2.2 Hindi 2.3 Sanskrit 2.4 Maths 2.5 Science 2.6 Social Science	For Secondary Classes. Qualification – Graduate in the subject and BEd with at least 50% marks in each and qualified in CTET or TET with min 60% marks.
3.	Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) 3.1 Physical Education	For Secondary Classes. Qualification – Graduate in the subject and BEd with at least 50% marks in each.
4.	Primary Teacher (PRT) 4.1 All Subjects	For Primary Classes to teach all subjects. Qualification – Graduation with B.El.Edn/D.El.Ed at least 50% marks in each and Passed in CTET or TET with 60% marks.
5.	Primary Teacher (PRT) 5.1 Physical Education (Female Candidates Preferred)	Graduate in Physical Education or B.P.Ed with at least 50% marks
6.	Primary Teacher (PRT) 6.1 Special Educator (female candidates preferred)	Graduate with BEd (Special Educator) or BEd General with 01 year Diploma in Special Education with min 50% marks in each. **Preferably RCI certificate holder.**
7.	7.1 **TGT** - Music (Hindustani Classical/Western Folk) 7.2 **PRT** – Music (Hindustani Classical/Western Folk)	Graduate in the subject with min 50% marks
8.	Primary Teacher (PRT) 8.1 Band	Skilled / Qualified in Western/Folk/ Vocals/Instrumental music/Jazz Band and Ceremonial band training. Ex-servicemen preferred (Retired from Defence/Police).

9. Note/Eligibility
9.1 **Age:** 9.1.1 Fresh candidates - below 40 years.
9.1.2 Experienced candidates 40 – 55 years with 5 yrs experience in last 10 yrs.
9.2 **Computer Literacy** is mandatory for all the posts.
9.3 Proficiency to teach in **English & Hindi medium** is mandatory.
9.4 Preferably candidates who are qualified in AWES OST is preferred for Sl. Nos. 1 to 5 above.
9.5 **Pass in CTET/TET is mandatory for posts Sl No. 2 & 4.**
9.6 Non - OST qualified candidates, if selected, have to clear **OST** within two years of appointment, failing which their appointment will be terminated.
9.7 **Interviews only** for short listed candidates, tentatively in Feb 2026.
9.8 NO TA/DA admissible.
9.9 Army Public School, K Kamaraj Road, Bangalore is a private unaided school.
9.10 Download **Application Form from**: www.apsbangalore.edu.in **ONLY HARD COPY APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED.**
9.11 Attach Bank draft for **Rs, 250/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty) only** in favour of "ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL".
9.12 Submit separate application form filled for each category (PGT/TGT/PRT) with all enclosures self attested addressed to the Principal, Army Public School, K. Kamaraj Road, Sivanchetty Garden Post, Bangalore – 560042 by post or by hand on or before **25 Jan 2026 (1500hrs).** Applications will not be accepted thereafter. Incomplete applications without supporting documents and applications sent by email will be rejected.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI Bidadi Branch : Veere Gowda Complex, bidadi karnataka - 562109

लॉकर करिए पर लेने के लिए सूचना NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

Following Locker holders are hereby notified that their respective lockers will be broken open on **18-01-2026** as per the laid down procedure of the Bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **17-01-2026.**

Locker A/c Number	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)
848110110000*86	Narasimha	B-41	Rs. 9,900.00
848110110000*49	B SRINIVAS	B-10	Rs. 6,600.00
848110100003*2	MOHAN P G	B-24	Rs. 12,100.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore
दिनांक/Date : 03.01.2026
Branch Manager
Bank of India Bidadi branch

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

PROFORMA 10.01
INDIAN RAILWAYS
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the South Western Railway, that 25000 Volts, 50 Hz., AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date, the overhead traction line shall be treated as **LIVE** at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line in Channasandra station

Section	Chainage in KM		Probable date of Energization
Channasandra Yard	1/800	4/870	27.01.2026

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 27.12.2025
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/788/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS Moblie App** from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
e-Auction for Contract

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-auction for 09.01.2026 Contract for Manning, Maintenance and Management of Parking Facilities Integrated with Multi Level Car Parking (MLCP) and other commercial activities located at Platform No. 1 Side, Yesvantpur Railway Station, Bengaluru Division,

PRE-BID MEETING :

Pre-Bid Meeting for Parking Contract integrated with MLCP at PF No.1 side at Yesvantpur Railway Station

Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting:

Monday. 05th January 2026, 05:20 4:00 to 6:00 PM

All Prospective bidders are requested to attend the Pre-Bid meeting on 05.01.2026 at 16.00 hours towards newly introduced multi- level car parking (MLCP) integrated with other commercial activities located at PF No, 1 side, Yesvantpur Railway Station

DRM Office Bengaluru
XHHC+WSR, Divisional Railway Office Rd, Kempegowda, Majestic, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560023, India

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/buw-jerq-exu
1 guest
1 yes
srdcmparking
Organizer

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/787/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, on behalf of our clients we are scrutinizing/investigating the marketable title of **(1)Sri.K.VASUDEV** S/o Sri.D.R.Kodandarama Reddy; his son **(2)Sri.V.MANJUNATH;** and **(3)Sri.K.SHIVARAM** S/o Sri.D.R.Kodandarama Reddy, both are residing at: No.103/2, First Floor, 9th Cross, Patel Lane, Domlur, Bangalore-560071, with respect to the Schedule Property.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest, or share or claim over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, succession as co-owner or legal heirs or joint family member, or by way of sale, lease, sub-lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s or claims with the undersigned (along with the photocopies of the documents based on which they rely for asserting their rights), **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1 property of Sri.K.Vasudev & Sri.V.Manjunath:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.35/2, PID No.27-1-35/2 (portion of property No.35), measuring on East 30 ft, on West 30 ft, on North 44 ft and on South 46 ft, totally measuring 1350 Sq.ft., situated at Kalidasa Marga, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009 and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No.35 of Sri.K.Shivaram
West by : Kalidasa Marga
North by : R.Srinivasa Reddy's property
South by : 10 ft wide Common Passage

Item No.2 property of Sri.K.Shivaram:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.35, PID No.27-1-35, measuring on East 30 ft, on West 30 ft, on North 47 ft and on South 47 ft, totally measuring 1410 Sq.ft, situated at Kalidasa Marga, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009 and bounded on:

East by : D.R.Neellappa Reddy's property
West by : Property bearing No.35/2 of Sri.K.Vasudev & Sri.V.Manjunath
North by : R.Srinivasa Reddy's property
South by : 10 ft wide Common Passage leading to Kalidasa Marga

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND,**
Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my client **Mrs.Swetha M** Wife of Mr. Purushotham M, to the general public. That she is the owner of absolute owner of the Schedule Property. Whereas, this Notice is to inform that my client **Mrs.Swetha M** Wife of Mr. Purushotham M, have got the property vide Release deed on dated 27.11.2025 before the sub registrar Jayanagar(Bommanahali). Further during the house shifting the original sale deed dated 14.10.1974, registered Document No.2580/1974-75, of Book-1, Volume-271, Pages 158 to 160, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore and registered Sale Deed dated 26.04.1979, Document No.237/1979-80, of Book-1, Volume-426, Pages 135 to 138, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore and registered Sale Deed dated 09.11.1981, Document No.3546/1981-82, of Book-1, Volume-640, Pages 178 to 180, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore was lost and not traceable now. Hence, if any public find the same are hereby informed to return back and she have not used this for any other purpose. Accordingly, she has lodged the complaint on Bengaluru City Police with E-lost, dated on 01.01.2026 and report number 1987544/2026.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the Residential **property bearing No. 1875,** Presently bearing **Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Khata PID No. 4609498678, Property No.1875/2, (Corporation No. 1875/2),** measuring East to West 25'.0" feet or 7.62 meters and North to South 30.0" Feet or 9.14 meters, in all measuring 750 Square feet, situated at 41 'C' Cross, 18 Main Road, Grape Garden, 4th T Block, Jayanagar-560041. and bounded on :

East by: Site No.1876; West by: Site No.1874; North by: Site No.1883; South by: Road.

Vivek Anand Sagar, Advocate,
Ashvik Law Associates,
Office at No.24, First Floor,
Sri Rama Mandir Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

From Page One

U.S. forces capture Venezuelan President

The U.S. military action, which plucked a nation's sitting leader from office, echoed the U.S. invasion of Panama that led to the surrender and seizure of its leader, Manuel Antonio Noriega, in 1990.

Mr. Maduro and other Venezuelan officials were indicted in 2020 on "narco-terrorism" conspiracy charges. The U.S. Justice Department released a new indictment on Saturday of Mr. Maduro and his wife for alleged role in narco-terrorism conspiracy. Venezuelan ruling party leader Nahum Fernández said Mr. Maduro and Ms. Flores were at their home within the Ft. Tiuna military installation when they were captured. "That is where they bombed," he said. "And, there, they carried out what we could call a kidnapping of the President and the First Lady of the country."

Early on Saturday, multiple explosions rang out and low-flying aircraft swept through the Venezuelan capital. The attack itself lasted less than 30 minutes and the explosions – at least seven blasts.

Some Venezuelan civilians and members of the military were killed, Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said without giving a number. However, Mr. Trump said some U.S. forces were injured in the strikes but that he believed "we had nobody killed".

Venezuela's government responded to the attack with a call to action: "People to the streets!" while Armed people and uniformed members of a civilian militia headed into the streets of a Caracas neighborhood long considered a stronghold of the ruling party.

Bangladeshi cricketer dropped from KKR

"BCCI will allow KKR a replacement player in line with IPL regulations, and further details will be communicated in due course," the franchise said further. The IPL season will start on March 26 and continue till May 31. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had permitted Mustafizur to play for KKR during this duration.

Mustafizur's exclusion from KKR after he was picked for Rs. 9.20 crore at the IPL 2026 auction has sent a shockwave in Bangladesh media. Bangladeshi newspaper *Amar Desh*, edited by Mahmudur Rahman, has announced that it would boycott all news related to the upcoming IPL season.

Dr. Asif Nazrul, Adviser of Sports and Youth Affairs, Bangladesh, expressed his "strong condemnation and protest" and said he will not "tolerate insult of Bangladesh's cricket, cricketers and of Bangladesh".

However, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told *ANI* that BCCI's instruction to KKR was prompted by "recent developments that are going on all across" indicating that the decision was taken in view of the political crisis in Bangladesh.

T.N. CM announces new pension scheme

"TAPS is the New Year and Pongal gift for government employees. The good governance of the Dravidian model will continue. As Tamil Nadu's financial position strengthens, the demands of all sections of society will eventually be fulfilled," he said.

Following the announcement, the Joint Action Council of Tamil Nadu Teachers' Organisations and Government Employees' Organisations (JACTTO-GEO) and various other organisations of government employees and teachers called on the Chief Minister and thanked him for announcing TAPS.

The indefinite strike announced by JACTTO-GEO from January 6 has been withdrawn following the announcement. The DMK, in the run-up to the 2021 Assembly elections, had promised to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Various associations of government employees had been demanding that the State government fulfil this promise.

According to the release, under the new arrangement, government employees will receive pension and monetary benefits equivalent to those under the OPS. The announcement of TAPS by the DMK government gains significance in the light of the State Assembly elections around the corner.

14 Maoists killed in encounters in Bastar

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

At least 14 Maoists, including six women, were killed in two separate encounters in Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, the police said.

Two commanders, each carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh, are among the dead. A senior police officer said that based on credible information about the presence of armed Maoists in the southern areas of the two districts, security forces launched simultaneous operations during which 12 Maoists were neutralised in Sukma and two in Bijapur. Both districts fall in the Bastar region.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai called the twin operations a "decisive success". "Our government's message is clear: those who still choose the path of violence should surrender, and return to the mainstream with honour," he wrote on X. "

Himachal govt. starts probe into college student's death

State sets up a committee to examine charges of sexual assault and caste-based abuse; it will submit a report in three days; assistant professor accused of sexual assault has been suspended

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh government on Saturday suspended an assistant professor of a government college in Dharamshala following charges of sexual harassment linked to a 19-year-old Dalit student's death in December.

The police, on January 1, registered cases against the professor and three girl students of Government College, Dharamshala on allegations of ragging and voluntarily causing hurt to the victim.

The State government has formed a four-member committee, led by Additional Director of Higher Education Harish Kumar, for fact-finding and conducting a preliminary inquiry into the death.

The inquiry will examine all aspects regarding the incident, including alleged sexual harassment by the professor and caste-based abuse, according to Director of Education Amarjeet Sharma's order.

Case file

A 19-year-old Dalit student from Government Degree College, Dharamshala, died on December 26, after alleged harassment and ragging incidents

INQUIRY: A four-member committee, led by Additional Director of Higher Education, formed for fact-finding.

POLICE ACTION: FIR registered under sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (sexual harassment, voluntarily causing hurt, common intention) and Himachal Pradesh Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Ragging) Act, 2009

ACCUSED
Ashok Kumar, Assistant Professor of Geography

Three students accused of ragging and assault

VICTIM'S FATHER'S CHARGE: On September 18, the victim was beaten and intimidated by the three students and was being sexually harassed by the professor. The victim fell ill, and died during treatment in Ludhiana

The accused, Ashok Kumar, assistant professor of geography, has been put under immediate suspension, pending the outcome of the inquiry, said the order.

The order further stated, "During the period of suspension, the headquarters of the accused Ashok Kumar shall be at the Directorate of Higher Education in Shimla and he shall not leave the headquarters without obtaining prior permission of the higher authorities."

Report in three days

The committee will submit a comprehensive report within three days after examining all aspects of alleged harassment, sexual assault, ragging, and caste-based comments by college teachers and students.

The victim died at a hospital in Punjab's Ludhiana on December 26, 2025. Her father alleged that on September 18, 2025, she was beaten up and intimidated by three students, and that Ashok Kumar, the professor, engaged in obscene acts with her.

Following these incidents, the girl was severely traumatised and fell seriously ill.

She was treated at multiple hospitals before she died during treatment.

The police have registered a first information report (FIR) under Sections 75 (sexual harassment), 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 3 (5) (common intention) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 3 of Himachal Pradesh Educational Institutions (Prohibition of) Ragging Act 2009, against the accused.

An investigation is under way.

CM promises action

Speaking with media persons in Kandaghat in Solan, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said strict action would be taken against all those involved.

UGC sets up panel to look into assault, ragging allegations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The UGC says that it has taken cognisance of the incident as one of 'alleged suicide'

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Saturday said it had taken cognisance of the death of a college student in Dharamshala after it emerged that the police had registered a case over allegations that the 19-year-old victim was sexually assaulted by a professor and subjected to ragging by other students at the government college.

The UGC said, "Its anti-ragging helpline had registered a *suo motu* complaint over the matter, and that a fact-finding committee had also been constituted to investigate the incident. The 5-member fact-finding committee is chaired by UGC Member Professor Raj Kumar Mittal... It has been asked that a report be submitted within seven days."

This comes a day after the Himachal Pradesh police booked three women students of the college for ragging and voluntarily causing hurt and one professor for sexual assault.

The UGC's statement, noted that it had taken cognisance of the incident as one of "alleged suicide" due to ragging, also noting that the college was denying this charge.

NCW takes cognisance

On Saturday, the National Commission for Women (NCW) in Delhi said that it had also taken *suo motu* cognisance of the case, condemning the "heinous, inhuman, and reprehensible act, which is a gross violation of the student's life, dignity, and rights.

It has sought an action-taken report from authorities in Himachal Pradesh within five days.

Further, NCW Chairperson Vijaya K. Rahatkar has written to the Director-General of Police in Himachal Pradesh, calling for the arrests of those responsible.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416)

Odisha Police begin probe into 'violation' of powers by Naveen Patnaik aide V.K. Pandian

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police has begun an investigation into the alleged "excessive power" exercised by V.K. Pandian, the then close aide of former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Gauda, who has been entrusted with the task of investigating the allegations, has sought evidence in support of allegations made by Surendra Panigrahi, the petitioner in the case.

'No such department'

In 2023, Mr. Panigrahi, president of the Bharatiya Bikash Parishad, a non-government forum, had alleged that under the Odisha Government Rules of Business, 1956, which outlines the framework for the functioning of the Odisha government, there was no such department called '5T' in the State.

Close aide: File photo of former Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik with V. K. Pandian. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"V.K Pandian, the 2000 batch IAS officer who had taken voluntary retirement to join Biju Janata Dal, was private secretary to then Odisha CM. However, he was appointed as 5T Secretary by a notification issued in 2019. This is clearly violation of rules," said the petitioner.

Mr. Panigrahi had first sent his petitions to the Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary in 2023, but his petition was never taken up for investigation. He subsequently sent his allegations to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the office of the President in 2024 and 2025.

Helicopter use

"Mr. Pandian moved alone by helicopter throughout Odisha without permission of then CM. As per RTI information, an expenditure of ₹9,03,60,346 was made towards hiring of helicopter. Subsequently, ₹8.18 crore was spent for helicopter use, taking the total expenditure to ₹17.21 crore. It was illegal to travel by air alone," he said. "The former IAS officer used to address public meetings, declare new projects without budgetary provisions and invite all the students from primary schools to university to attend his meeting declaring compulsory holiday. He had then hijacked the administration," Mr. Panigrahi said.

"In the event that constitutional heads are unwell, powers are generally not passed onto subordinates including private secretaries. How was it possible that private secretary to Odisha CM was discharging constitutional duties by the strength of oral orders from CM?" Mr. Panigrahi had further pointed out in his 2023 petition.

Don't look at RSS through BJP's prism, says Bhagwat

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Sangh cannot be understood by looking at the BJP, said Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday.

Mr. Bhagwat said that different narratives about the Sangh were being circulated and it was important to present the truth.

"The Sangh is a unique organisation in the world. Therefore, the Sangh cannot be understood by comparing it to anyone," he said. Mr. Bhagwat said that since the beginning, the Sangh was to become an organisation whose sole aim is to organise the entire Hindu society.

Left parties condemn U.S. 'aggression' in Venezuela

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Left parties condemned the U.S. strikes on Venezuela and the capture of the country's President Nicolás Maduro on Saturday, with the Communist Party of India, the Communist Part of India (Marxist), and the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB).

CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby condemned the U.S. action, calling it a "naked act of aggression". "This is a blind violation of international laws," Mr. Baby said, calling India's silence on the strikes "doubtful".

All India Forward Bloc general secretary G. Devarajan said that the AIFB demanded "immediate intervention by the United Nations to condemn the U.S. aggression."

CPI general secretary D. Raja called the strikes "blatant and criminal military aggression" on the U.S.' part, and said that they were "a gross violation of the UN Charter."

Army signs deal to procure long-range rocket launchers backed by Israeli technology

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Under emergency procurement powers, the Indian Army has signed a ₹293-crore contract with the private defence manufacturer NIBE Ltd., in collaboration with Israel, for the supply of an advanced long-range rocket launcher system with strike capabilities of 150 km and 300 km.

The acquisition will significantly enhance the Army's deep-strike artillery firepower and operational reach.

The development was confirmed by the Pune-based NIBE Ltd. in a letter to the Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange on Friday.

"The company has entered into a supply contract with Indian Army, Ministry of Defence, Government of India for manufacturing and supply of ground equipment, accessories, ESP and ammunition for universal rocket launcher system capable of integrating multiple rocket types including rockets striking at long ranges of 150 km and 300 km for a total consideration of ₹292.69 crore (inclusive of all taxes and duties)," the letter mentioned.

The Suryastra multi-calibre rocket launcher system. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The system, Suryastra, is India's first Made in India universal multi-calibre rocket launcher, capable of executing precision surface-to-surface strikes at ranges up to 300 km.

Designed to engage multiple targets simultaneously at varying ranges, the system achieves a high degree of accuracy with a circular error probable (CEP) of less than five metres during trials.

In July 2025, the defence manufacturer has signed a Technology Collaboration Agreement (TCA) with Israeli defence major Elbit Systems to manufacture the advanced universal rocket launcher system (SURYA) in India.

This marks the first time a high-precision rocket launcher system with strike capability up to 300 km is being produced domestically.

EP provisions

On December 26, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of the Defence Ministry cleared a proposal to allow defence forces to sign contracts under emergency procurement (EP) powers till January 15. Under the EP provisions, the armed services can procure weapons systems worth up to ₹300 crore on an urgent basis without any further clearances.

SC to give verdict on bail for Umar Khalid and others tomorrow

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is on Monday scheduled to pronounce judgment on the bail pleas of former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student leader, Umar Khalid, and other accused persons in an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act case related to the alleged "larger conspiracy" behind the February 2020 riots in the national capital.

A Bench headed by Justice Aravind Kumar had reserved its verdict in December 2025 on separate special leave petitions filed by the accused persons against a September 2 decision of the Delhi High Court denying them bail.

The High Court had reasoned that "unfettered right to protest would damage the Constitutional framework and impinge upon the law-and-order situation in the country".

Besides Mr. Khalid, the other appellants are Gulfisha Fatima, Sharjeel Imam, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohammad Saleem Khan, and Shadab Ahmed. Mr. Khalid, Mr. Imam and others were accused of being the "masterminds" behind the riots, which left 53 people dead.

A Bench headed by Justice Aravind Kumar had reserved its verdict in December 2025.

Grounds for bail

They have sought bail chiefly on the ground of prolonged incarceration without trial for the past five years. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, likened the prolonged custody to pre-trial conviction.

Trinamool MP Mausam Noor returns to Congress

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

In a major boost to the Congress ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal, Mausam Noor, Rajya Sabha member of the Trinamool Congress. joined the the party.

"West Bengal wants change," she said after joining the Congress. She had complete faith in the Congress leadership and was willing to shoulder any responsibility the party offered her, Ms. Noor said.

She hails from the family of Congress leader and the late former Union Minister A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, whose name remains synonymous with the Congress in Malda district decades after his death. Ms. Noor was a two-time Lok Sabha member from Malda from the Congress, before she defected to the Trinamool seven years ago.

She rejoined the Congress in the presence of senior leaders Jairam Ramesh, Ghulam Ahmed Mir, and Bengal Congress president Shubhankar Sarkar.

Cong. to begin agitation against new rural jobs law on Jan. 10

Campaign to save the MGNREGA will kick off with district-level press conferences and culminate with four major rallies; Jairam Ramesh says VB-G RAM G Act represents 'dangerous centralisation'; party says it will challenge the new law in court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress will hold a nationwide agitation, the MGNREGA Bachao Sangram, from January 10 to February 25 to demand the withdrawal of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-G RAM G) Act, the party announced on Saturday.

The Congress is pressing for restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in its original, rights-based form.

"MGNREGA is not charity. It is a legal guarantee. Crores of poorest people got work in their own villages; MGNREGA reduced hunger and distress migration, raised rural wages, and strengthened women's economic dignity. VB-G RAM G is designed to dismantle this right," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and K.C. Venugopal at a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Addressing a joint press conference with fellow Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, K.C. Venugopal alleged that the new law fundamentally altered the nature of rural employment by removing the legal guarantee to work and centralising powers that were earlier vested with States and panchayats. He declared that the party would challenge the Act in court.

"The new legislation strikes at the federal structure of the country. No consultations were held with State governments, even though their finances and administrative authority will be directly affected," Mr. Venugopal said.

He added that under the new Act, employment would no longer be a legal right, unlike under MGNREGA, and the authority of Panchayati Raj institutions would be weakened.

Common strategies

Asked whether Opposition-ruled States would refuse to implement the law, Mr. Venugopal said the Congress would consult its INDIA bloc partners to evolve a common strategy. "We will reach a consensus among Opposition-ruled Chief Ministers and explore all possible options going forward," he said.

Mr. Ramesh contended that the VB-G RAM G Act represented "dangerous centralisation" and undermined the constitutional balance between the Centre and the States.

"Despite its grand name, the only guarantee in this law is centralisation. There is no assured employment and no financial security for State governments," Mr. Ramesh said, adding that under the new framework, the allocation of funds would be decided entirely by the Centre.

"Our demand is not modification but complete withdrawal of this Act and the restoration of MGNREGA as a rights-based programme," he asserted.

The Congress said the agitation would focus on defending the right to work, protecting Panchayati Raj institutions, and standing with women workers, Dalits, Adivasis, and the rural poor.

The campaign will begin with district-level press conferences on January 10, followed by day-long fasts and symbolic protests at district headquarters on January 11. Panchayat-level meets and mass contact programmes are scheduled from January 12 to 29, with ward-level sit-ins planned for January 30.

Gheraos of Vidhan Sabhas will be held between February 7 and 15, followed by four major rallies from February 16 to 25.

'Logical discrepancies' in SIR forms down to 94.49 lakh in Bengal

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

People checking their documents during an SIR hearing in West Bengal. PTI

The total number of "logical discrepancies" detected in electors' enumeration forms in the ongoing special intensive revision in West Bengal has decreased by around 41.51 lakh since the draft roll was published in December.

Logical discrepancies in progeny linking with the 2002 voter list include instances of mismatch in parent's name, age difference between an elector and their parent being less than 15 years or over 50 years, age difference between the elector and their grandparents being less than 40 years and one elector linked to over six successors.

As of January 2, the total number of logical discrepancies is around 94.49 lakh, according to sources in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal. These cases were being reverified by election officials for the past several days.

1.67 crore cases

Initially, when the draft roll was published on December 16, around 1.67 crore cases were found with logical discrepancies, CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal had said.

Currently, there are around 51 lakh cases of mismatch in parents' names, 23 lakh cases of electors with over six progenies, 4.74 lakh cases of age difference with parents being less than 15 years, 8.41 lakh cases of age difference with parents being over 50 years and nearly 3 lakh cases of age difference with grandparents being less than 40 years.

Trinamool Congress leaders, including the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, had raised questions on why the Election Commission is not publishing the list of electors with logical discrepancies in the public domain.

Other issues

The cases of logical discrepancies are in addition to 30 lakh 'unmapped' voters who could not establish a familial link with the voters' list of 2002 and the 58 lakh names that were deleted from the draft electoral roll on account of being absent, shifted, dead or duplicate.

Before the SIR exercise began in the State, there were roughly 7.66 electors listed on the voter list as of October 27.

SEC orders probe into 'unopposed victories' in Maharashtra civic polls

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra State Election Commission has ordered an investigation into reports of unopposed election of candidates in the municipal corporation elections to be held on January 15.

"We have asked all the local authorities to submit a report to us. This is a part of the process whenever other candidates withdraw nominations and only one candidate remains in the fray," an official of the SEC told *The Hindu*. He said that the SEC would check if the nominations were withdrawn under pressure or allurement.

> We have asked all the local authorities to submit a report to us. This is a part of the process when... only one candidate remains in the fray
> **SEC OFFICIAL**

Hinting that the results in such wards might be delayed, the official said there was no time stipulation for the submission of reports.

The results for the polls will be declared on January 16.

"There is no deadline. The report can be submitted after January 16. We will not declare the official results till these reports are submitted to us," he said.

Many withdrawals

Several candidates withdrew their nominations on the last day of withdrawal of nominations on Friday, thereby leading to a situation where only one candidate remained in the fray. Though official figure of such victories are not yet known, media reports have pegged it over 60.

"We do not yet have the official figure as the returning officers or commissioners have not yet submitted their final report to us. We will come to know how many such cases have happened, only once we get the reports from the local level," an official of the SEC told *The Hindu* on Saturday morning.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday slammed the SEC and the ruling Mahayuti over the reports of unopposed elections.

He said the EC had become the servant of BJP.

"The trend in Maharashtra to use all means to pressure other candidates, is worrying. Candidates were not just threatened with action by central agencies, but they were also given money. Each candidate was given ₹5 crore to withdraw nominations," the leader said.

Cong. terms Centre's plan for gig workers 'too little, too late'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday termed the Centre's proposal for a 90-day work rule for gig workers to become eligible for social security "too little, too late", as the Opposition called for the need for legislation to protect the rights of workers in the unorganised sector.

The party said it stood with the gig workers and had been an ardent champion of the rights of those in the unorganised sector.

"Amid a larger movement by gig workers to secure dignified working conditions, the [Narendra] Modi government has belatedly woken up to the need to do so. But its vision is too little, too late and falls far short of the provisions made out by the Congress governments in Telangana, Rajasthan, and Karnataka to support gig workers," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

Listing out provisions made by Congress governments, he said these include establishment of a welfare fund, setting up a tripartite welfare Board to ensure registration of workers by platforms, welfare fee collection, transparency and workers access to their own information, and implementation of social security schemes.

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD. MPPHSCL
(A Government of M.P. Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL : https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 01.01.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and Portal from dated 01.01.2026 to next 30 days :

1. Online Tender Ref. No. T-805/MPPHSCL/Lab/RC/2026 Dt. 01.01.2026 Uploaded on portal & Website.

All Prospective Bidders are requested to visit "**www.mptenders.gov.in./https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, https://gem.gov.in**" for further details.

M.P Madhyam/123801/2026 **CGM (TECHNICAL)**

Cong. to screen poll aspirants; Priyanka to head Assam panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Lok Sabha member from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been appointed as the chairperson of the screening committee that will shortlist potential candidates for the upcoming Assembly election in Assam.

The party on Saturday also announced screening committees for Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Ms. Vadra will head the Assam panel with Lok Sabha MP Saptagiri Ulaka and Rajya Sabha MP Imran Masood as members of the committee. The move shows the party's intent to make a comeback in the State where the party had a 15-year uninterrupted rule since 2001 before losing to the BJP in 2016.

The Kerala panel would be headed by Madhusudan Mistry, with Rajya Sabha MPs Naseer Hussain, Neeraj Dangi and Abhishek Dutt being members of the panel. The committee for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry would be headed by T.S. Singh Deo while B.K. Hariprasad will lead the West Bengal panel.

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560 064. Ph.: 080-67355000
No.: KSNDMC/ADM/MISC/50/2025-WFTG/ Date: 03.01.2026

Amended Notification regarding appointment of Technical Director for KSNDMC

Subject: Advertisement for appointment of Technical Director for KSNDMC under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) for implementation of the World Bank funded Project

The amended detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), eligibility criteria and other conditions for engaging as Technical Director at KSNDMC is available at KSNDMC Web portal **www.ksndmc.org.** The Applicants may note the following:

- Last date for submission of applications along with relevant supporting documents through Registered Post / Courier or in Person, is extended **until 5.00 pm of 20.01.2026**
- Applications to be sent through proper channel to **"The Office of Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560 064"**
- Incomplete applications will not be considered and KSNDMC reserves the right to reject any application, without assigning any reason, whatsoever
- The qualified candidates will be shortlisted and called for Personal Interview for final selection to the post
- For further Queries, you may contact the Administrative Officer at 9611990357

Sd/- Director, KSNDMC

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/03/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 688/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	# 48, PID No. 64-86-48, 30th Cross, Bannerughatta Road, ward No: 46, Thilakanagar, Bengaluru- 560041. Measuring North to South 40 ft, East to West 90+95/2 ft Total 3500 Sq.ft Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/WT1vyZFt135vgjKv7			
(a)	Ground Floor-1, Flat No.GF-01, UDS-417.53, SBA-1593.75 Sq.ft	1,44,49,500/-	14,45,000/-	1,45,000/-
(b)	Ground Floor-2, Flat No.GF-02, UDS-417.53, SBA-1593.75 Sq.ft	1,44,49,500/-	14,45,000/-	1,45,000/-
(c)	1st Floor-1, Flat No.FF-01, UDS-417.53, SBA-1593.75 Sq.ft	1,46,01,500/-	14,61,000/-	1,47,000/-
(d)	1st Floor-2, Flat No.FF-02, UDS-417.53, SBA-1593.75 Sq.ft	1,46,01,500/-	14,61,000/-	1,47,000/-
(e)	2nd Floor-1, Flat No.SF-01, UDS-417.53, SBA-1593.75 Sq.ft	1,47,44,000/-	14,75,000/-	1,48,000/-
(f)	2nd Floor-2, Flat No.SF-02, UDS-417.53, SBA-1593.75 Sq.ft	1,47,44,000/-	14,75,000/-	1,48,000/-
(g)	3 rd Floor Merged Flat, Flat No.TF-01, UDS-835.06, SBA-3187.50 sq.ft	2,89,76,900/-	28,98,000/-	2,90,000/-
(h)	4th Floor, Office Space, UDS 359.77, SBA-1500 Sq.ft	1,36,80,000/-	13,68,000/-	1,37,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
21st January 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**22nd January 2026 11:00am to 05:00pm**	**16th February 2026 Before 5pm**	**17th February 2026 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Date: 01-01-2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/4826/NR/2025-26

Ajit Pawar should unite NCP groups, says Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, part of the *Mahayuti* government, should merge with the NCP(SP) headed by his uncle Sharad Pawar, as both factions have joined hands for the January 15 elections to the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad civic bodies.

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (O&M), M.P.P.K.V.V.Co.Ltd., MANDLA
Tel No: 07642-250209, 250902, e-mail: se9449500@yahoo.co.in
No. SEM/O&M/PUR/TS/4398 Mandla dtd:- 02.01.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online Tenders are invited for following works under (O&M) Circle MPPKVVCL, Mandla.

Sr. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of the Work/Services	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Crores)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	EMD (In Rs.)	Due date of opening of tender online from 14:00 Hrs (*)
1	SEM/O&M/PUR/TS/4398 Date 02.01.2026 (e-Tender No. 2026_PKVVC_472 630 1)	Outsourcing of Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Works under the jurisdiction of O&M Circle MPPKVVCL, Mandla.	24.64	11800.00 (10000.00+ 1800.00 18%GST=1800)	1.00 Lakh	29.01.2026

*For updated/extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in Cover -1 & Techno-commercial bid in Cover-2) please refer to the online key dates. Other details can be seen in the complete tender documents available on e-portal https://mptenders.gov.in

|| SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW || **S.E. (O&M) MPPKVVCL, Mandla**

"विद्युत् अनियमितता संबंधी शिकायत के लिए वी मित्र ऐप डाउनलोड करें और पाएं रू. 50,000 तक का इनाम!"

INBRIEF

Shah-led panel meet focuses on issues of national security

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of the Union Home Ministry in Sri Vijaya Puram. The panel meeting, which started at 11 a.m. and ended at around 2.40 p.m., focused on issues of national security, disaster management, cybersecurity and regional infrastructure, sources said. The meeting also emphasised the establishment of more modern centres such as the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at the regional level, the sources said. PTI

Man arrested for playing 'anti-national' songs at salon

A 25-year-old man has been arrested by the Mira Bhayandar Vasai Virar police in Palghar district of Maharashtra for allegedly playing "anti-national" songs related to Kashmir at his salon, officials said on Saturday. The accused, identified as Abdul Rehman Shah, originally from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, has been operating his salon in Naigaon for several years. According to local people who complained to the police, he allegedly played provocative content regularly, ignoring previous warnings, an official said. He was produced before a local court, which remanded him in police custody, a police officer said. PTI

'NEP will bring Indian youth out of Macaulay mentality'

The National Education Policy will be the medium to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to bring the country's new generation out of the Macaulay mentality, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday. Mr. Pradhan said that the NEP, which is in its sixth year now, will herald a paradigm shift. "Prime Minister Modi has said the country needs to come out of the Macaulay mentality," he said. The Union Minister further pitched for holistic assessment of studies, entrepreneurship and innovation in education, adding that youth should not be just job seekers but also job creators. PTI

Centre pushes States to speed up farm scheme fund release

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday urged States to adopt a strategic approach to budget utilisation, warning that delays in spending allocated funds result in losses for States and hamper the timely release of subsequent central instalments. "If States are unable to spend their budgets on time, it only results in losses for them," the Minister said, adding that budget allocations are often held up due to minor administrative issues. Mr. Chouhan stressed the need for prompt verification of eligible farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme, and ensuring timely settlement of claims. PTI

SUDOKU

				3			6	5
	6		7		8	2	4	
3	2		6					
			3		6	5		8
				8				
6		7	1		2			
					1		9	7
	5	6	9		7		1	
7	9			4				

No.SS6751 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	3	1	2	4	5	6	8	7
2	6	4	7	8	1	3	5	9
7	5	8	3	6	9	2	4	1
4	9	7	5	2	8	1	3	6
6	2	3	4	1	7	8	9	5
8	1	5	9	3	6	4	7	2
1	7	6	8	5	3	9	2	4
3	4	9	1	7	2	5	6	8
5	8	2	6	9	4	7	1	3

Peace and dialogue essential where there are 'only disputes', says Modi

PM speaks at exposition on Piprahwa relics related to the Buddha, he says Buddha's philosophy is India's guide to a global approach; some relics repatriated to India after the family of a colonial archaeologist sought to auction them

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Strength is necessary against the "enemies of humanity", but where there are "only disputes", dialogue and peace are essential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, speaking at the inauguration of an international exposition of the sacred Piprahwa relics related to Lord Buddha in New Delhi.

Buddha's philosophy of "walking together instead of conflict and dominance" has been India's "core philosophy" and approach to the world in the 21st century, the Prime Minister said. "India is committed to '*Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya* (the welfare and happiness of all people)'. This is what Lord Buddha taught us."

Mr. Modi said that the departure of the relics from India and their eventual return both held "significant lessons". Noting that slavery was not just political and economic, "but it also destroys our heritage", he added: "The same happened with the sacred relics of Lord Buddha".

Reviving heritage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics related to Lord Buddha, at Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

Rescued from auction

For those who took the relics away and their descendants, these were just "lifeless antique pieces" and this was why they had tried to auction them off, he said. "But for India, these relics are a part of our revered deity, an inseparable part of our civilisation. Therefore, India decided that their public auction would not be allowed," the Prime Minister said.

The exposition, being hosted at the Rai Pithora Complex in New Delhi, consists of relics from the 1898 excavation in Kapilavastu, other relics unearthed from excavations in the 1970s, reliquaries and jewelled treasures from the Indian Museum in Kolkata, a monolithic stone coffer which had originally contained the gem relics, and the most recently repatriated relics from the family collection of William Claxton Peppé, who had led the 1898 excavation.

The Peppé family collection of relics was repatriated to India in July 2025 after a joint effort by the Ministry of Culture and private partners, just as they were about to be auctioned by Sotheby's in Hong Kong. Acknowledging the support of private partners in bringing back parts of the relics, the Prime Minister thanked the Godrej Group for its cooperation in ensuring that they are returned to Lord Buddha's "land of karma, his land of contemplation, his Mahabodhi land, and his Mahaparinirvana land".

Shared heritage

Mr. Modi spoke of the "waves of devotion and faith" that were inspired by the relics wherever they travelled. Millions of people had visited the exhibition of these relics as they travelled across countries like Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Russia, he said, noting their appreciation of Indian officials just because they were "from the land of Buddha".

The government has worked to preserve relics and modernise sites important to Buddhism in India as well, he said, citing efforts to build a "Buddhist Circuit", connecting pilgrimage sites across the country, the promotion of Pali as a classical language, and multiple projects underway to make sites of Buddhism more accessible to the people.

'Correct use of technology can reduce court delays'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday laid the foundation stones for seven buildings on the Patna High Court premises and attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the new campus of the Bihar Judicial Academy (BJA).

Asserting that the institution's strength is closely connected to technological capacity, Chief Justice Kant said, "Appropriate use of technology can reduce delay, improve transparency and make courts more approachable for the elderly, persons with special disabilities, and those who reside in remote areas. This is what we call access to justice."

He also dedicated an e-ACR platform for judicial officers designed to modernise the process of filing and processing Annual Confidential Reports online. He also e-inaugurated the Judges' guest house at Gaya Ji.

The seven new buildings in the High Court included an auditorium, administrative block, multi-level car park, residential complex and hospital.

Challenges aplenty for rural, tribal, migrant groups in fighting TB: report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India continues to bear a major portion of the global tuberculosis (TB) burden, accounting for about 27% of the cases worldwide, and faces challenges–including socio-economic disparities, malnutrition, comorbidities, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic–that impede elimination efforts.

A TB report titled 'India's Progress in Addressing the Challenges of Tuberculosis', published by stakeholders, including the Women's Collective Forum, has also identified India's rural, tribal, and migrant communities as those faced with multiple challenges when fighting tuberculosis.

"Migrant populations in India encounter critical obstacles to TB care due to high mobility, informal employment, and limited health access, often resulting in delayed diagnosis and disrupted treatment," said the report, adding that targeted intervention should include nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements to identify high-burden migrant clusters, as well as outreach programmes in educational institutions for early awareness and screening.

The study says, migrant populations in India encounter critical obstacles to TB care due to limited health access. ISTOCKPHOTO

The report calls for a nationwide mapping of non-notified settlements to locate high-burden clusters

It also noted that addressing these challenges requires an integrated migrant health framework, combining various sectors such as HIV, non-communicable disease (NCD) and vector-borne disease services at common delivery points. Also, strengthening data systems for frontline workers and establishing an online inter-state referral platform can improve tracking and continuity care, stated the report.

Highlighting the challenges faced by frontline workers, the report called for prioritisation of developing a robust employee welfare policy that encompasses incentives, travel reimbursement, health insurance, and salary standardisation for frontline workers.

"Operational research on work patterns, documentation processes and barriers to patient-centred service delivery among frontline workers may produce evidence-based strategies," said the report.

It notes that strengthening health infrastructure, embedding digital technology and equity, ensuring uninterrupted care in crises, and empowering communities through partnership models will be critical to overcome the existing barriers and achieve TB elimination targets," it said.

Call for framework

Additionally, research also indicates that a significant proportion of TB survivors exhibit chronic respiratory symptoms or structural lung damage such as fibrosis, bronchiectasis and airflow obstruction.

"Post-TB lung disease significantly impacts morbidity, disability and mortality rates. Establishing a national framework for post-TB care is crucial," said the report.

It added that nearly 60 % of individuals with TB symptoms in India initially seek care from private providers, underscoring the critical need for robust and sustained public-private partnerships to meet national TB elimination goals.

'NCC cadets assisted authorities during Operation Sindoor'

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

From disaster response during Operation Sindoor to shaping disciplined youth at the national level, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) continues to play a pivotal role in nation-building, NCC Director-General Lieutenant-General Virendra Vats said on Saturday.

Lt. Gen. Virendra Vats speaks at the pooja for the Republic Day Camp recently. ANI

Addressing the media, Lt. Gen. Vats highlighted the organisation's expanding footprint, with NCC units now present in over 90% of all districts nationwide, and emphasised its role in inculcating character, discipline and national integration among youth. He also highlighted the strong and growing participation of girl cadets, who now constitute 40% of the nearly 20 lakh-strong NCC.

He said that during Operation Sindoor, approximately 75,000 NCC cadets assisted the civil administration, providing crucial support, including medical assistance and voluntary blood donation, underscoring the organisation's operational readiness and social commitment. India launched the operation against Pakistan on May 7, 2025, in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The conflict ended four days later.

The NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2026 commenced at the DG NCC Camp, Delhi Cantonment. A total of 2,406 cadets, including 127 from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and 131 from the north-eastern region, are participating in the camp. Cadets and officers from 25 friendly foreign countries are also taking part under the Youth Exchange Programme.

Live Events Development Cell to support expansion of 'concert economy', boosting tourism and employment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has established a Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) to facilitate the expansion of the "concert economy", boosting employment and tourism in the country.

India's live events industry is witnessing rapid expansion and is emerging as a key contributor to the media and entertainment ecosystem, an official said. The organised live events market was valued at ₹20,861 crore in 2024, registering a growth rate of 15%, outpacing several traditional media segments.

With an expected CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 18%, the sector is poised to position India among the leading global live entertainment destinations by 2030, as per government estimates.

In his address at the WAVES Summit in May 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the vast untapped potential of India's live entertainment sector, underlining its role as a key driver of employment, investment, tourism, and India's cultural and global influence.

According to a report, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities are increasingly emerging as cultural and entertainment hubs. PTI

Constituted in July 2025 under the direction of Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw, the LEDC serves as a single-window facilitation mechanism for the sector. It brings together representatives of the Central and State governments, industry associations, music rights societies and major event companies.

A single large-format live event generates more than 15,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Entertainment hubs

According to a BookMyShow report covering the period January-November 2025, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities are increasingly emerging as cultural and entertainment hubs. Cities in the northeastern region recorded significant growth in live entertainment footfall, with increases of 213% in Shillong, 188% in Guwahati and 143% in Kokrajhar. Visakhapatnam recorded the highest growth at 490%, followed by Vadodara at 230%, the records show.

A 17% rise in consumption of live entertainment across musical concerts, sports and theatre has also been noted. Over five lakh people travelled to other cities to attend live events, representing an 18% increase over the previous year. Attendance at theatre events rose by 45%, reflecting renewed public engagement.

INBRIEF

Tea Board for 100% testing of imported crop: Dy. Chairman

Deputy Chairman of Tea Board C. Murugan assured 100% testing of quality of imports would be done to prevent inflows of the cheap variety into India. The industry had been complaining that cheap imports of inferior quality were entering India, which is destroying the industry. Speaking at the biennial general meeting of the Tea Association of India here, Mr. Murugan said the Board is formalising the procedure for 100% testing of quality of imports of the beverage. PTI

Sindhudurg Airport gets DGCA nod for 24X7 operation

The Sindhudurg Airport in the Konkan region of Maharashtra received aviation safety regulator DGCA's approval for round-the-clock operations, including during low visibility and adverse weather conditions, IRB Infrastructure Developers said. "The approval significantly enhances the airport's reliability and operational capability. This will support sustained traffic," said Jai S. Sadana, chief adviser and head at IRB Sindhudurg Airport. PTI

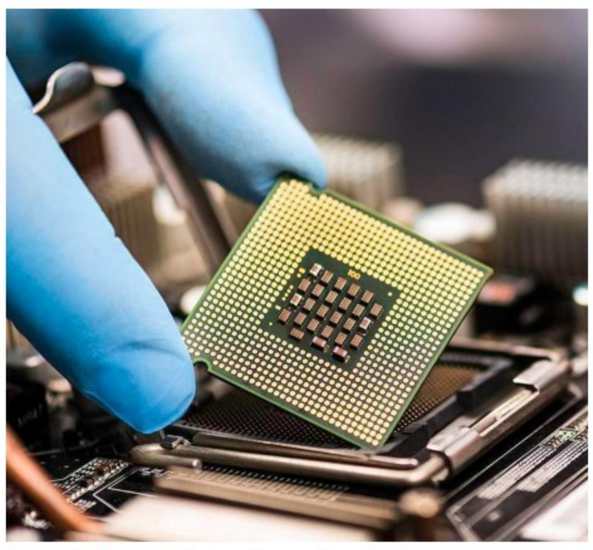
CIEL HR mops up ₹30 crore from Zoho, Pegasus, others

Human resources solutions provider CIEL HR Services raised ₹30 crore from 88 investors, including Zoho Corporation, Pegasus India and Standard Fireworks, ahead of its proposed initial public offering (IPO). In a public announcement, the Chennai-based firm said it carried out a pre-IPO placement of 27,27,272 equity shares at ₹110 apiece, aggregating to ₹30 crore. The fundraise was approved by the board on November 17. PTI

Signs of global memory chip shortage emerge at PC shops

The build-your-own-PC market has become far more expensive due to surging memory chip prices, in what might foreshadow price increases elsewhere for Indian electronics

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



Compute the cost: Cause of the problem is 3 firms have cornered the memory chip market's supply chain. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

At Nehru Place in the national capital, the beginnings of a looming pricing crisis in personal electronics is taking shape, as customers and retailers in the sprawling market struggle to get hands on RAM sticks and SSDs used in desktop PCs, laptops and smartphones.

Over the last few weeks, prices of these components have surged with little precedent,beyond even the levels seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, as AI hyper scalers globally crowd out a supply chain that now has less room for consumer-grade products.

At Manoj PC Wala, a single stick of DDR5 16GB RAM – that until November was selling for about ₹5,000 at worst – now bears a fresh MRP sticker. The current price is ₹15,000. "SSD prices have doubled, and RAM prices have increased four times," Subhash, one of the store's attendants, said. Price data for these components reviewed by *The Hindu* confirm this assessment.

Early in December, one of the handful of importers for RAM sticks, which are usually pre-installed in pre-built PCs or laptops(and less commonly sold separately to enthusiasts or enterprises), offered retailers a chance to buy up stock in bulk at the prevailing prices of the time. Suppliers warned rates would only rise from there, Pramod, another attendant, said. Most retailers balked, unable or unwilling to risk the down payment this offer entailed. Now, RAM and SSD prices are indeed skyrocketing and the climb in prices could persist in the months ahead.

Consumer electronics

The root cause of the problem is three firms have largely cornered the memory chip market's supply chain: SK Hynix, Samsung and Micron. These firms have been overwhelmed with orders for chips used in AI data centres by Big Tech that outbid consumer-grade electronics makers' prices. Micron has even announced that it will shut down Crucial, its RAM brand for consumers.

The full impact of the price shock this situation will lead to – in the absence of the trio ramping up production – will be felt in the coming months. Electronics markets such as the Nehru Place cater to a small portion of consumers, who build their own hardware. Large-scale original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Dell, HP and Asus often have long-term supply agreements that protect them from immediate price jolts.

But even these firms are preparing for price adjustments. Dell has already announced plans for raising prices of laptops sold to enterprise clients, sparing individual buyers for now.

Long-planned computer procurements across government and the private sector have been spared so far: a senior State government official told *The Hindu* Tamil Nadu's plan to distribute 10 lakh laptops to college students was not impacted by the chip price surge. A senior IT Ministry official said the price shocks had not reached large industry players yet, due to their existing reserves and supply deals with memory chip makers.

Even smartphone makers may have to scale down the level of RAM or memory they offer at a given price point, or hike prices. While smartphone prices are now only hit at low-budget line-ups, price shocks "could spread across the broader smartphone and consumer electronics ecosystem," Ivan Lam, analyst, Counterpoint Research, wrote in a note. As India's smartphone market is on the right side of a recovery in shipments, the shock may impact the recovery.

As far as the custom PC builders are concerned, driven as they are by a usually correct logic that assembling one's own PC is cheaper than paying for a pre-built one, they are less willing to invest in things needing a separate RAM purchase for the moment, Subhash said.

"What they thought they could build for ₹50,000 now costs ₹70,000," he says. "So they're not buying."

'India's silk value chain to cross ₹1,10,000 crore'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Neelam Shami Rao

Central Silk Board has an ambitious target of doubling the country's silk value chain, currently pegged at ₹55,000 crore, by 2030, said P. Sivakumar, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, a body that works under the Ministry of Textiles and is responsible for the overall development of India's sericulture.

India currently produces 41,121 metric tonne of raw silk, of which over 70% is mulberry-based, while the remaining is eri, taser and muga. The production outlook for 2030 was 54,000 metric tonne, he told *The Hindu*.

Huge value

"India produces high quality natural silk. The commodity has huge commercial value in the domestic as well as international markets. The board is looking at increasing the production of silk across the country by increasing land under cultivation and also enhancing productivity of existing silk farms across the country," he said.

According to him, to meet the targets, mechanisation and use of technology will be given priority. All States, except Rajasthan (because of its warm weather), are producing silk now, and Gujarat is the latest entrant with 100 farmers farming eri (castor plant-based) silk. Also, the board has conducted a survey in Rajasthan to explore silk cultivation.

Earlier, Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Chairperson, Textile Committee,said, India's silk industry was already experiencing growth through increased production, diverse applications and government initiatives like Silk Samagra and almost all the States were participating in silk production and new districts being added to the silk production map.

"We have added over 50 new districts on silk maps of the country over the last five six years and now we have some 476 producing districts," Ms. Rao said.

She further said, by investing in silk production, India would be able to enhance the size of its silk market and triple exports.

Ms. Rao said the Ministry was looking forward to increased participation from state government's to further penetrate the silk economy in the country.

India exported silk worth ₹2, 300 crore last fiscal and expected to cross ₹2,500 crore in FY26.

Still on exit mode, FIIs start 2026 by selling ₹5,349 cr. in all asset classes

Anupama Ghosh
MUMBAI

Turbulent times: Men walk past a screen displaying market results outside the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in Mumbai. REUTERS

Foreign portfolio investors (FIIs) continued relentless selling in Indian markets, pulling out ₹5,349 crore across asset classes in the first two trading sessions of 2026, as per data from the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL).

This marks the selling spree persisting for nine consecutive weeks.

On January 1, FIIs net pulled out ₹2,167 crore, followed by ₹3,182 crore on January 2. In the equity segment alone, FIIs sold ₹4,588 crore through stock exchanges on January 1 and ₹3,041 crore on January 2 though primary market investments of ₹20 crore provided marginal relief, bringing the net equity outflow to ₹7,608 crore for the two sessions.

The selling pressure comes after a brutal December when FIIs dumped ₹30,333 crore worth equities via exchanges.

This took the total FII selling through exchanges in calendar 2025 to a staggering ₹2.40 lakh crore.FIIs' primary market investments of ₹73,909 crore provided some cushion, tempering net outflow for 2025 to ₹1.66 lakh crore.

"The year 2025 closed with record FII selling in India. This is the worst selling by FIIs since they started investing in India," said V.K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments Ltd.

"The sustained selling by FIIs contributed significantly to the sharp 5% depreciation of the rupee vs the dollar in 2025."

DIIs cushion fall

Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) stepped in to cushion the blow. "Domestic institutional investors maintained strong support for the market, logging net inflows of ₹2,203 crore," said Ravi Singh, chief research officer, Master Capital Services Ltd.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Cotton prices firm up as import duty is restored

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

A labourer working at a cotton farm in Gujarat.

With the government not extending the 11% import duty exemption on cotton beyond December 31, the price of domestic cotton is firming up.

Price of the widely-used Shankar-6 variety of cotton stood at ₹52,500 a candy on December 15, ₹53,500 on December 27, ₹53,800 on December 30 and ₹54,000 on January 3.

India imported almost 30 lakh bales from October 1 to December 31. Currently, imported cotton price will be higher for the Indian textile mills. However, quality of Indian cotton has taken a hit this year because of unseasonal rains and if the prices increase, Indian textile mills will not be able to compete globally. Farmers will not be affected by removal of the import duty as the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is purchasing cotton from them at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), said Nishant Asher, secretary of the Indian Cotton Federation.

CMD CCI Lalit Kumar Gupta told *The Hindu* it procured 67 lakh cotton bales from farmers at MSP from October to end December against 57 lakh bales in same period last year.

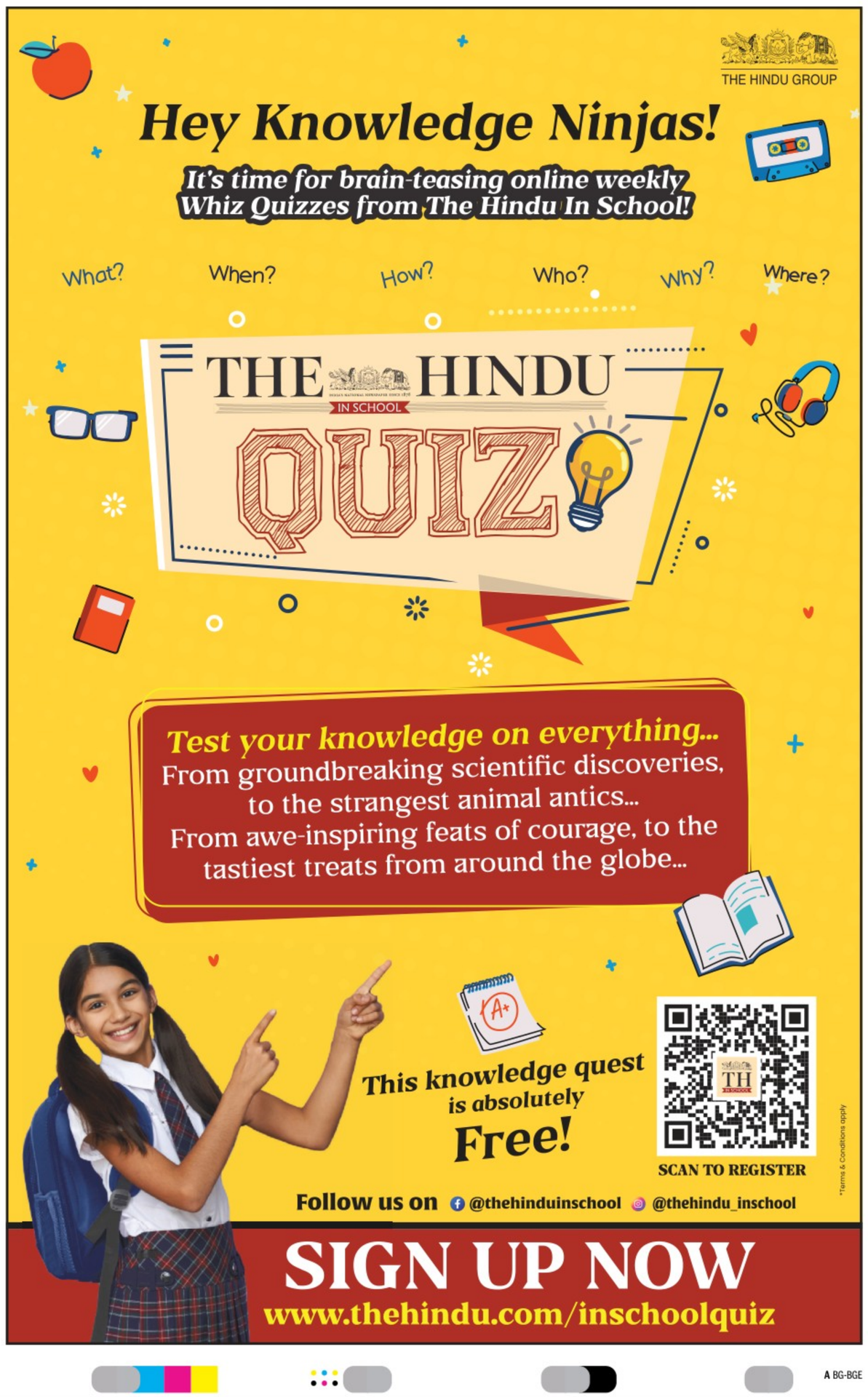
The CCI bought almost 100 lakh bales of cotton from farmers at MSP last cotton season (October 2024 to September 2025) and expected to buy a larger quantity this year. It will start selling the cotton with it soon so that textile mills have quality cotton during the peak season, he said.

Govt. mulls Aadhaar-like number for EV batteries

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Transport Ministry has proposed assigning Aadhaar-like unique identification numbers to EV batteries to ensure their end-to-end traceability and efficient recycling.

The proposed framework will make it mandatory for battery producers or importers to assign a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) to batteries, as per draft guidelines from the Ministry. They will also have to upload the relevant Battery Pack Dynamic data on the official portal of BPAN.



Green paradox: planting trees will cool a megacity unless it's dry

Vasudevan Mukunth

Cities around the world are getting hotter for two reasons: the climate is warming and urban areas often trap heat more than the countryside. Planting more vegetation, especially trees, has become a popular 'nature-based' way to cool cities. But how much does this really help?

To answer this, researchers from Australia, China, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland recently compared the temperature over different kinds of urban land cover, including trees, grasslands, croplands, and built-up surfaces like concrete and asphalt, in 761 megacities in 105 countries worldwide, including India. They defined a measure called temperature regulation capability: the temperature of a vegetated area minus the temperature of a built-up area. If the number was negative, vegetation was cooler, and vice versa.

When they analysed the data, the researchers found a paradox. In many cities, vegetation cooled, but in dry places, it could warm. Across all cities, grasslands cooled built-up areas in 78% of cases and trees cooled in 98%. But in almost a fourth of cities, especially in places with under 1,000 mm of rain a year, urban grasslands and croplands were hotter than built-up areas, creating net warming. Even trees showed warming in 2% of arid cities.

The researchers published their findings in *Science Advances* on January 2. They used a combination of physical effects to explain the paradox. Vegetation can cool a surface by evapotranspiration, i.e., water evaporating from soil and transpiring from leaves, carrying heat away. But vegetation can also absorb more sunlight if it reflects less light than some built surfaces. In arid cities, the cooling weakens because water is scarce, so evapotranspiration is limited. Then the warming could 'win', i.e. reflection-driven warming plus changes in stored heat could outweigh the weaker cooling.

The authors also examined what happened during extremely hot summers. In about 75% of cities, trees reduced how much the temperature rose compared to built-up areas. Grasslands and croplands often did the opposite, worsening the heat increase in about 71% and 82% of cities. One reason was that extreme heat often came with a large deficit in the vapour pressure, which caused many grasses and crops to shut down water loss more strongly, reducing cooling from evapotranspiration.

As the authors concluded, planting trees is not a simple solution and "misguided greening risks are worsening urban warming".

Earthlife is made of space stuff, studies of asteroid Bennu hint

OSIRIS-REx samples from Bennu show the asteroid carries ribose, glucose, amino acids, nucleobases; discovery includes nitrogen-rich polymers, presolar grains of supernova origin, raising questions about how earth acquired life's ingredients

Sandhya Ramesh

In 2020, a spacecraft more than 3 lakh km away on a small asteroid called Bennu collected samples of its surface. The craft, part of NASA's OSIRIS REx mission, then launched itself towards the earth, dropping off the canister of samples in September 2023. Since then, scientists in the US and Japan have been studying pieces of Bennu to answer fundamental questions about the formation of the early solar system and life on the earth.

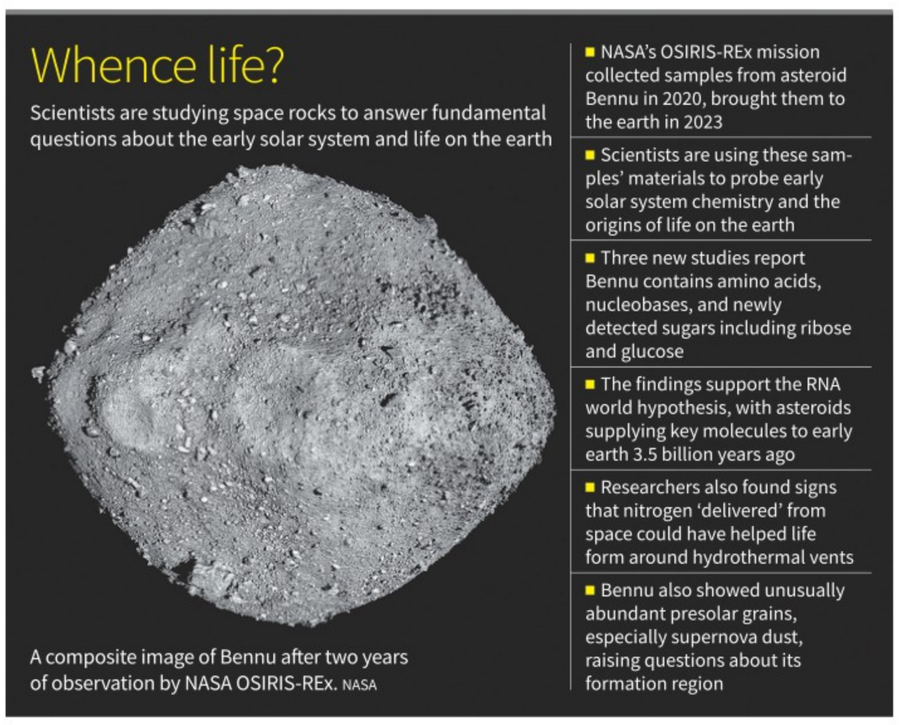
On December 2, three teams published papers reporting Bennu contains sugar and other important molecules required to form RNA, and is also surprisingly abundant in supernova dust from a time before the sun formed.

When the solar system was forming from the cloud of dust and gas swirling around the sun, several smaller rocks were pushed around as well, and often clumped together. Bennu's larger parent asteroid formed in this way around the same time as the sun, 4.6 billion years ago, somewhere beyond Saturn. When Jupiter migrated to its present orbit, the parent was kicked into the asteroid belt, where it collided with other rocks. Over millennia, fragments from the parent gave rise to Bennu, which today orbits the sun between the earth and Mars.

In a *Nature Geoscience* paper, scientists led by Tohoku University in Japan reported finding ribose, the sugar molecule present in RNA, and glucose, the sugar molecule required for metabolism, on Bennu. Together with previous findings of amino acids and all the five nucleobases found in DNA and RNA, the entire inventory of molecules scientists believe are needed for life have now been confirmed on Bennu.

"For 5-C to convert to 6-C sugar, the optimal mix of environmental conditions such as very little but liquid brine, the right pH, and extremely low temperatures are required, which the asteroid possessed at formation," Kuljeet Kaur Marhas, professor and head of the Planetary Labs Analysis Section at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, who works with samples of the asteroid Itokawa, said.

The findings strengthen the 'RNA world' hypothesis: that early life used RNA as a source of genetic information and for catalytic functions, before DNA and proteins evolved. According to the study, the abundance of asteroids like Bennu in the inner solar system would have provided sugars and amino acids, leading to the formation of life on the earth more than 3.5 billion years ago.



Chemical reactions

Scientists have also reported evidence of chemical reactions between ices forming polymer molecules before the ices melted. In a *Nature Astronomy* paper, a second team from NASA thus explained the discovery of polymers of nitrogen- and oxygen-rich materials on Bennu. This material, called carbamate, would have been soft and gummy when it formed, hardening since. Scientists haven't found this material in extraterrestrial samples before.

At the time Bennu's parent formed, volatile compound ices like frozen ammonia, known to accumulate on asteroids' primordial surfaces, could have been heated by random radioactive decay. This would have liquefied the ices, which seeped into rocky pores and deposited the salts and minerals dissolved in them there. Bennu could have 'inherited' a piece of this.

Dust and gas in the early presolar system were formed from other exploding stars. By analysing the dust, astronomers hope to find clues about the elements that made up its counterpart in the early solar system, which could help understand how planets formed.

In a third paper also published in *Nature Astronomy*, a different NASA team showed the presolar grains on Bennu had indeed been disturbed and moved around by moving liquids on the asteroid's surface. The concentration of presolar grains was at least 6x higher than in other similar asteroid and meteorite samples.

The team also reported signs the grains had been singed by heat released when the great mass of dust collapsed to form our sun.

Studies of the grains revealed they originated from various types of stars and supernovae. Of these, the concentrations of grains of supernovae-origin were the highest, indicating it was present in abundant quantities in the part of space where Bennu's parent formed.

"Why exactly there is an abundance of supernova-origin presolar grains is the biggest question, as Bennu is just like plenty of other asteroids in its neighbourhood," Dr. Marhas, who also reviewed the presolar grains paper, said.

"Will we find similar concentrations if we sample previously studied asteroids in different locations or is there something specific that makes the ordinary-seeming Bennu extremely special?"

Sandhya Ramesh is a freelance science journalist

Here's how you're paying to use 'free' social media

DECODED

John Xavier

A flurry of developments around artificial intelligence tools and applications in the past year might suggest a lull in social media patterns and usage. But a closer look at how people engaged on some of the top social media platforms tell a different story.

Current estimates show that over 5.6 billion people maintain at least one active social media account. The average user now juggles accounts across nearly seven platforms, from messaging apps to video feeds and professional networks. Each handle represents a carefully curated digital persona, maintained not just for self-expression, but to remain socially and professionally visible. What began as a tool for connection has quietly evolved into a continuous obligation.

A persistent myth underpins this system: that social media is free. After all, there is no upfront payment, no monthly invoice, and no credit card required at sign-up. But the absence of a price tag does not mean the absence of a cost. Instead of money, we pay with something far scarcer. Time and attention.

Only a few years ago, average daily social media use hovered around two hours. This trend seems to be going up to two and a half hours per day, driven largely by short-form video and algorithmic feeds designed for frictionless consumption. That adds up to more than 75 hours per month, which is nearly two full workweeks devoted solely to scrolling.

The cost becomes clearer with a simple calculation. Take your monthly income and divide it by the number of hours you work to estimate your true hourly value. Now multiply that rate by the time you spend each day on social platforms. The result is the implicit "fee" you pay for scrolling through digital feeds. For many people, this hidden cost rivals discretionary expenses like dining out, watching a movie, or even a portion of rent. The difference is that, unlike money, these hours are permanently gone.

AI makes it possible to publish thousands of posts a day, optimised for engagement signals rather than substance. GETTY IMAGES

Platform-level data makes the scale even starker. On TikTok, Android users globally average more than 30 hours per month, largely consumed in rapid-fire bursts of short videos. Similar dynamics exist across Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook, where recommendation algorithms are optimised for user retention. The longer you stay, the more data you generate, and the more valuable you become to advertisers on those platforms.

This environment is now being fundamentally reshaped by generative AI content. The rise of what some call "AI slop" has dramatically increased the volume of content flooding social feeds. (AI slop is low-effort, mass-produced text, images, and videos generated at near-zero cost.)

AI makes it possible to publish hundreds or thousands of posts a day, often optimised for engagement signals rather than substance.

As a result, platforms are becoming frothier, noisier, and harder to navigate.

This explosion of content cuts both ways for engagement. On one hand, more content gives algorithms more material to test, remix, and personalise, which can temporarily boost metrics like watch time and impressions. On the other hand, over-saturation risks diminishing returns. When feeds are dominated by repetitive, shallow, or misleading AI-generated posts, users can experience fatigue, mistrust, and disengagement.

Early signals already suggest a bifurcation: passive scrolling time may rise, while meaningful interaction declines.

In an ecosystem flooded with infinite, instantly generated media, focus itself becomes the most valuable commodity. What we choose to ignore may matter more than what we consume.

Social platforms can still be powerful tools for learning, collaboration, and creativity. But only if we remember that "free" has always been the most expensive price of all.

SNAPSHOTS

Oldest-yet deliberate human cremation found in Malawi

Archaeologists have found an ash and charcoal feature dating to about 9,500 years ago in Malawi, with burnt bone fragments from a small adult within, making it the earliest evidence of an *in situ* adult pyre yet. The ash formed in layers, showing that people repeatedly relit and fed the fire with substantial amounts of deadwood, with uneven heating. People later returned to light more fires at the spot, making the shelter a memorial for later generations.

Microlensing used to weigh distant rogue planet

A study has used microlensing to weigh a rogue planet, i.e. not orbiting a star. A foreground object passes in front of a distant star and its gravity briefly magnifies the star's light. This brightening tells scientists about the object. The technique is difficult for rogues yet the study succeeded by combining observations from ground- and space-based telescopes. The team reported the planet, around 9,800 ly from the Milky Way's centre, weighed as much as Saturn.

Starvation forces leafcutter bees to start adulting

Larvae of many insects begin metamorphosis after reaching a critical weight. But a new study found the trigger in leafcutter bees is starvation, usually 24 hours after not getting food. Food removal reduced gene transcripts linked to making juvenile hormones and increased those linked to producing the molting hormone and to nutrient-sensing insulin. The findings suggest the hormonal machinery responds to food running out, also matching the fact that the adults provision food and larvae can't forage.

Question Corner

For up, go this way

How does my smartphone know which way is up?

Your smartphone knows which way is up due to its accelerometer. It's a chip whose parts shift slightly when the phone accelerates or when gravity acts along a particular direction. The phone's software reads the accelerometer's measurements along the x, y, and z directions and figures out which side is pointing towards the earth.

Phones also have a gyroscope. This is a microelectromechanical sensor with a small vibrating mass on a chip. The phone drives this mass to vibrate back and forth at a fixed frequency. When the phone rotates, the vibrating mass is deflected sideways due to the Coriolis effect. If the chip is vibrating in one direction and the phone rotates around a particular axis, the mass is pushed slightly in a direction perpendicular to the vibration. The sensor has microscopic springs and electrodes to detect this sideways motion and convert it into electric signals, from which the phone estimates the angular velocity, how fast the phone is turning and in which direction.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

What went wrong with a rabies vaccine batch?

Has the problem been rectified? Should patients repeat the doses?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S., issued a health warning late last year about counterfeit human anti-rabies vaccine Abhayrab available in India and in circulation since November 1, 2023. The warning came after rabies cases were seen in travellers from India.

What did the CDC flag?

In its November 25, 2025, travel notice, the CDC said that a counterfeit Abhayrab vaccine for humans has reportedly been circulating in major cities in the country (India) and that this could be both harmful and fail to prevent rabies. Australia maintained that its travellers who had been administered Abhayrab in India after November 1, 2023, should consider the vaccination invalid and initiate a new course of vaccination.

What did the manufacturer say?

On December 27, 2025, Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), one of India's leading vaccine manufacturers, which produces Abhayrab, said a counterfeit batch of its human anti-rabies vaccine, Abhayrab, was no longer available on the shelves.

Sunil Tiwari, vice-president and head of quality management at IIL, added that every batch of the vaccine manufactured in India is tested and released by the National Control Laboratory (Central Drugs Laboratory), which is a WHO-Geneva pre-qualified laboratory under the National Regulatory Authority.

What is the protocol to be followed?

If patients suspect that they have received a counterfeit vaccine, the primary protocol is to consult a healthcare provider to determine if replacement doses of a verified, authentic vaccine are needed.

According to Tushar Tayal, associate director, Internal Medicine, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, "Repeat rabies vaccination is allowed and safe. The rabies vaccine is an inactivated vaccine, and as such, it does not contain a live virus. It, therefore, becomes safe to be given repeatedly if required. Revaccination is allowed by the health institutions in situations of suspected vaccine effectiveness or exposure."

He explained that following exposure from a bite or exposure as suspected, a complete series of post-exposure prophylaxis is administered. "Revaccination is recommended whenever there is a question of vaccine quality, authenticity, or schedule compliance. In cases where there are doubts about vaccine authenticity, inappropriate dosages, lack of cold chain maintenance, or lack of records, revaccination is recommended," he said.

> Doctors recommend revaccination whenever there is a doubt about vaccine quality, authenticity, or schedule compliance

Doctors add that if a previously vaccinated individual faces fresh exposure with doubts about his/her immunity status, then repeating the dose is advisable. In cases where an immunocompromised person faces a situation where his/her immunity is inadequate, that person might need to be revaccinated. As a life-threatening disease, any question regarding ensuring immunity makes revaccination necessary.

What is the rabies revaccination regimen?

Without a valid vaccination, a person is considered to be previously unvaccinated and needs a full regimen – usually administered on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28. Rabies immunoglobulin should be administered in cases of severe exposure. But if a person has been vaccinated previously and there is proper documentation of the same, then only booster doses are needed.

How is India positioned in terms of rabies incidence and control?

The World Health Organization notes that India is endemic for rabies, and accounts for 36% of the world's rabies deaths. The true burden of rabies in India is not fully known; however, as per available information, it causes 18,000-20,000 deaths every year. About 30-60% of reported rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under the age of 15 years, as bites that occur in children often go unrecognised and unreported.

Rabies deaths in humans are 100% preventable through prompt and appropriate medical care. Vaccinating dogs is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people.

India has implemented the National Rabies Control Programme and the joint National Action Plan for Rabies Elimination to achieve the goal of eliminating dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

The WHO and its global partners aim at ending human deaths from dog-mediated rabies through a comprehensive One Health approach promoting mass dog vaccination, ensuring access to PEP, health worker training, improved surveillance, and bite prevention through community awareness.

Which are the airports being privatised?

How were the places selected? When is the tender process likely to begin? What are the privatisation goals a part of? When was the revenue-sharing model replaced by per passenger fee? How does it impact airfares? What are some of the issues being raised by airports?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

The third round of airport privatisation, covering 11 airports to be opened for bids in five bundled groups, has moved a step forward with the Ministry of Civil Aviation sending a proposal to the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for its in-principle clearance and detailed scrutiny. According to government officials, the five bundles, each comprising metro and non-metro airports, include airports at Amritsar and Kangra; Varanasi, Kushinagar and Gaya; Bhubaneswar and Hubli; Raipur and Aurangabad; Tiruchi and Tirupati.

What is the process?

Once the PPPAC completes its appraisal and the Union Cabinet signs off on the plan, bids will be invited from private operators, with the government planning to launch the tender process by March 2026.

The 11 airports were selected from among all AAI (Airports Authority of India) facilities handling 0.1-1 million passengers annually. Projections of future traffic growth and investment requirements then narrowed the list to these top performers for the third privatisation round.

The development comes six years after the plan for privatising 25 airports was first shared by AAI on the conclusion of the privatisation of six airports, bagged by the Adani Group. Sources say the remaining 14 airports would be taken up for privatisation in subsequent rounds.

The privatisation goals are also part of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) that aims at monetising operating public infrastructure to unlock idle capital and reinvest that in other assets. Launched in August 2021, the NMP set an aggregate indicative target of ₹6 lakh crore to be raised by leasing brownfield infrastructure assets over the four-year period from FY 2022 to FY 2025.

> The aim should be to ensure the cost of air travel for smaller cities remains affordable

The target for the airport sector through the privatisation of 25 airports was pegged at ₹20,782 crore, or nearly 4% of the overall NMP value. In all, 88.3% of the total NMP target has been achieved by various infrastructure ministries, of which roads and railways remain the top contributors, but the aviation sector remains a laggard. The Union Budget 2025-26 announced the launch of the Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30 to plough back ₹10 lakh crore.

On track: The airports were selected from among all Airports Authority of India facilities handling 0.1-1 million passengers annually. R. V. MOORTHY

When did the privatisation of airports start?

Privatisation of airports started in 2003 under the NDA government. It approved the privatisation of two brownfield airports, i.e., Delhi and Mumbai airports, with 26% AAI stake and 74% stake owned by private JV partners. Delhi went to a GMR-led consortium in 2006, Mumbai to a GVK-led consortium in the same year via competitive bidding based on a revenue-share model. Two greenfield PPP airports followed, which included Bengaluru and Hyderabad in 2004.

In 2019, six more airports (Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram) were privatised, which were all won by the Adani Group. The revenue-share model was replaced by per passenger fee.

For the third round of privatisation, the PPPAC will evaluate key aspects, including revenue-sharing models versus per-passenger fees, cross-subsidisation between metro and non-metro airports in a bundle, and the need for a cap on the number of airports a single entity bags. It will also assess optimal land parcels for non-aeronautical revenue streams that are used to offset airline and passenger fees, and whether the User Development Fee collected from passengers as a component in the airfare will be determined for each airport independently or as a joint asset.

What are the concerns?

Recently, when IndiGo was forced to cancel nearly 5,000 flights in the first two weeks of December, widespread concern was raised about the risks of a duopoly in India's aviation sector. Similar dangers are now emerging in the airport sector, where a monopoly has steadily taken shape over the past five years, with the Adani Group bagging 8 airports – six through privatisation, followed by Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports, where it acquired GVK's stake.

Consider the recent dispute involving telecom operators, who approached the Department of Telecommunications over what they describe as "extortionary" charges levied at the newly inaugurated Navi Mumbai Airport to allow the use of its in-building solutions and refusal of right of way to set up infrastructure to provide cellular services.

Why are costs rising for both airlines and passengers?

Privatisation often raises concerns about rising costs for airlines and passengers, even as infrastructure investment increases. These concerns are magnified when a large monopoly emerges, leaving airline operators with limited bargaining power and passengers with virtually none.

Take the example of Thiruvananthapuram Airport, where, following its first tariff revision after privatisation to Adani, which was approved by the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), the user development fee charged to passengers as part of the airfare increased from ₹506 to ₹770 for domestic travellers for one year, followed by further hikes in subsequent years. Aircraft landing charges were also sharply increased.

Additionally, the regulator pulled up the airport for under-reporting its projection of non-aeronautical revenues, which are meant to cross-subsidise charges levied on airlines and passengers. AERA noted that the projections submitted were based on pre-privatisation and pre-COVID figures from the AAI.

The common man's grievances include high taxi charges at airports, congestion within terminal buildings, limited access to wheelchairs, and being compelled to pay for porter services to overcome challenges of accessibility. A beginning has been made with the airport tariff regulatory body moving towards evaluating airports on service delivery benchmarks and proposing a penalty if these are not met. The service benchmarks include wait time at security gates, check-in time, availability of help desks, and time taken to travel between terminals, among others. It plans a third-party evaluation of these parameters and a penalty in the form of 5% reduction on airport tariff, so that it results in reduced user development fee for passengers.

What lies ahead?

Only about 6% of Indians currently travel by air, highlighting the enormous scope for growth in what is already the world's third-largest aviation market. While affordability remains a key factor, the low penetration rate makes it clear that air travel in India is far from saturated. To meet rising demand, the government has set a goal of building 50 new airports over the next five years and expanding the existing network of 163 airports. By FY2026, India's airports are expected to have a combined passenger-handling capacity of around 550 million passengers per annum (mppa), factoring in new facilities such as Navi Mumbai Airport and the upcoming Noida International Airport. Industry estimates suggest that airport capacity will need to grow to about 850 mppa within five years. Supporting this growth will require more than just new airports and will also depend on the presence of financially robust airlines.

Where does India stand on acid attacks?

What is survivor and social activist Shaheen Malik fighting for? What happened to her case in court? How many cases were reported in 2023, the latest National Crime Records Bureau data available? Why is the crime severely under-reported? Why is the conviction rate low despite laws?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

When a Delhi court acquitted the three main accused in a vicious 2009 acid attack case on December 24, 2025, it was not just a devastating end to a 16-year battle for justice fought by survivor and social activist Shaheen Malik, but also shone a harsh light on the situation of acid attack survivors. Ms. Malik was a 26-year-old MBA student and counsellor in Panipat when she was attacked outside her workplace, resulting in the loss of vision in one eye and 25 reconstructive surgeries. She plans to appeal the verdict in the Delhi High Court but says it will discourage other survivors from seeking justice. Hers is not an isolated story: of 703 acid attack cases in Indian courts in 2023, the last year for which data is available, there were 16 convictions and 27 acquittals.

What are acid attacks?

An acid attack is an assault where a corrosive substance is thrown on or administered to a person with the intention of harming them. Sulphuric, hydrochloric, and nitric acids are the most commonly used substances. They can melt the skin and flesh, dissolve bones, causing severe burns, scarring, blindness, maiming, or even a permanent vegetative state, apart from psychological trauma and socio-economic harm.

> In 2023, 57 reported acid attacks took place in West Bengal, 31 in Uttar Pradesh, and 15 in Gujarat, the three worst affected States

The majority of victims are women and young girls, while perpetrators are almost always men. A 2024 analysis of 55 cases in India by the Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI) found that motives were related to personal relationship issues in three-fourths of attacks against women, including revenge for spurning romantic or sexual advances, dowry-related disputes, suspicions of infidelity, and domestic abuse.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 207 reported cases of acid attacks in 2023, the last year for which data is available, an increase from 202 in 2022 and 176 in 2021. There were also 65 cases of acid attack attempts. The crime is severely underreported due to societal stigma, family pressure, and fear of retaliation. ASTI estimates that there are likely 1,000 attacks per year in India.

In 2023, 57 reported acid attacks took place in West Bengal, 31 in Uttar Pradesh, and 15 in Gujarat, the three worst affected States.

Safety first: Survivors call for a more comprehensive ban on the sale of acid and stricter implementation of existing rules. FILE PHOTO

What are the laws against acid attacks in India?

Section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita mandates a minimum punishment of 10 years in prison up to life imprisonment, and a "just and reasonable" fine to meet the victim's medical expenses. An acid attack attempt is to be punished by five to seven years' imprisonment. The law also requires all public and private hospitals to provide free treatment to victims.

In 2013, the Supreme Court mandated the regulation of acid sales, with a photo ID for buyers, and sellers required to keep a register of purchases, but this is poorly implemented.

In 2023, the NCRB reported that the police were investigating 113 acid attack cases, along with 53 cases pending from the previous year, and 86 cases were chargesheeted and sent for trial. There were 649 cases pending trial from the previous year. The accused were convicted in only 16 cases, including pending cases, while 27 cases saw acquittal in the course of the year.

Ms. Malik's experience puts a human face on those statistics. "Just the fact that I did not get a verdict for 16 years when the case should have been completed in six months is a denial of justice. The police investigation was shoddy, there was evidence that was ignored, there was extreme judicial insensitivity... The judge even falsely accused me of having an emotional relationship with the accused," she told *The Hindu*. "The investigating officer pushed me to settle the case instead of taking it to court and the accused offered me crores of rupees. I did not take one paisa because I wanted my rights, not money... Who will be willing to go to court after this?" she asks, noting that not one of the 300 survivors supported by her Brave Souls Foundation has yet secured a conviction in their trials, though most have been offered out-of-court settlements. Ms. Malik also had to go to court to get the ₹3 lakh she is entitled to from the State as compensation, receiving the money nine years after the crime.

What steps are needed to end this crime and support survivors?

Survivors have called for a more comprehensive ban on the sale of acid and stricter implementation of the existing rules. "The sub-divisional magistrate is responsible for monitoring acid sale; has even one SDM been punished for illegal sales? In Bangladesh, a shop is sealed within 30 days if they are openly selling acid," says Ms. Malik. The neighbouring country passed stringent laws against acid sales and attacks in 2002, accompanied by large-scale public awareness campaigns, after which the number of reported attacks has fallen 15% to 20% each year, according to the Acid Survivors Foundation of Bangladesh; from 494 attacks in 2002, there were only 13 attacks in 2024.

Sensitisation of judges, public prosecutors and judges, fast track courts, legal support and counselling for victims, and penalisation of judicial delays are essential to improve conviction rates and create a stronger deterrent. The Justice J.S. Verma Committee's recommendations for a national fund to cover lifelong medical, psychological, educational, and skilling needs of survivors must be implemented for comprehensive rehabilitation.

PROFILES

Monroe Doctrine reloaded

Strike on Venezuela

By bombing Venezuela, the U.S. is seeking to reestablish its primacy in the Western Hemisphere, check the influence of its rivals in the region and install a friendly regime in the country which has one of the world's largest proven oil reserves

Stanly Johny

Donald Trump had set his sights on Venezuela during his first term. Then, his administration formally charged President Nicolas Maduro and his top aides with alleged involvement in drug trafficking. Juan Guaido, an opposition politician, was recognised by the U.S. and its Western allies as the acting President of Venezuela. After Mr. Trump returned to power in early 2025, his immediate foreign policy priority was Venezuela. The administration declared a 'war on drugs' and accused Mr. Maduro of being 'one of the largest narco-traffickers in the world'. It began bombing civilian boats off Venezuela claiming they were carrying drugs, and deployed jets, warships and thousands of troops to the Caribbean. Mr. Trump said he had authorised the CIA to carry out a clandestine operation inside Venezuela, and imposed a naval quarantine on oil tankers to and from the country.

Skeletal remains: A destroyed anti-aircraft unit at La Carlota military air base in Caracas, Venezuela, after the U.S. attack on Saturday. REUTERS

Regime change

On January 3, a day after Mr. Maduro offered "serious talks" with Washington, the U.S. carried out large scale air strikes in the Latin American country. The Venezuelan government "denounced" the military aggression and declared a state of emergency. Mr. Trump acknowledged the strikes in a social media post and claimed that Mr. Maduro and his wife "were captured" and taken out of the country. While it is not immediately clear whether the abduction of Venezuela's sitting President would mark an end to the socialist regime, Mr. Trump seems to be moving fast with his plan of aggression. What he wants is clear: regime change. María Corina Machado, Venezuela's right-wing opposition leader who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize, 'absolutely supports' Mr. Trump's policies.

Why does Mr. Trump want regime change in Venezuela, a country that doesn't pose any serious security challenges to America? Venezuela is not even a major source of drug production, and Washington hasn't provided any evidence to substantiate its claim that the Maduro regime was running cartels.

Three broad reasons can be identified for the U.S. aggression.

One, Mr. Trump wants to reimpose American primacy in the Western Hemisphere. President James Monroe declared in 1823 that the Americas were off-limits to future European interference and colonisation. What later came to be known as the Monroe Doctrine, the policy established U.S. hegemony in its backyard, carving out a sphere of influence.

The recently released *National Security Doctrine* of the Trump administration identifies Latin America and the Caribbean as a strategic priority – a Trump corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, which American media and experts dubbed the 'Donroe Doctrine', after Donald Trump. The document asserts that the U.S. must deny influence or control by outside powers [read China] in Latin America and ensure that the Western Hemisphere remains under American political, economic and military influence.

Two, while reinforcing American primacy, the U.S. would also want to keep the Chinese and Russian influence in the region under check. China has already made huge investments in Latin America through its Belt and Road Initiative, which Beijing claims have 24 signatories in the region. China is also the largest or the second largest trading partner of most countries in the region.

In his second term, Mr. Trump has supported far-right figures in the continent, from Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil to Javier Milei in Argentina. In Honduras, Nasry Asfura, a Trump-endorsed right-wing candidate, won the presidency last month. With the return of the right-wing, the U.S. and its allies are rolling back South America's pink tide. While there are still a few left-wing governments in Latin America, two of them publicly defy American dominance and seek stronger strategic and economic ties with China and Russia – Venezuela and Cuba. Of the two, Venezuela holds a prime spot because of its vast reserves of liquid gold.

China accounts for nearly 80% of Venezuela's oil purchases. China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) is also the largest foreign company with investments and operations in Venezuela's oil sector. Even though China has scaled back its investments in Venezuela due to American sanctions, in 2024, China Concord Resources Corporation, a private company, signed a $1-billion agreement with PDVSA, Venezuela's state oil company, to develop two oilfields in Lake Maracaibo. Earlier in 2025, the Trump administration forced Panama to pull back from the China-led BRI. If the Maduro regime is forcibly brought down, the U.S. could send a strong message to other weaker powers in the region against economic and security cooperation with China and Russia.

It's about oil

The third reason could be oil. Venezuela has about 17% of the world's known oil reserves, or more than 300 billion barrels, nearly four times the reserves of the U.S. American companies such as ExxonMobil and Gulf Oil were active players in Venezuela's oil sector until the 1976 nationalisation. When left-wing leader Hugo Chavez came to power in 1999, he tightened the state control over oil resources through another wave of nationalisation and used oil profits to launch poverty eradication projects. (In 2002, there was a coup against Chavez, which was backed by the U.S. But Chavez was brought back to power within 48 hours in the face of mass protests against the coup plotters).

Last month, Mr. Trump demanded Venezuela return all the "stolen American oil, land and assets", in a direct reference to Venezuela's nationalisation of its oil resources. He also made it clear that he wanted Venezuelan oil for American companies–which would help the U.S. reduce its dependence on Persian Gulf oil and force China out of Venezuela.

Mr. Trump had said this earlier as well. In 2019, after the first Trump administration recognised Juan Guaido as the acting President of Venezuela, Mr. Trump had ordered his aides to demand Mr. Guaido to commit to giving the U.S. access to his country's oil and ousting China and Russia if he wrested power, John Bolton, Mr. Trump's former National Security Adviser, wrote in his memoir. In 2023, Mr. Trump said: "When I left [in 2021], Venezuela was ready to collapse. We would have taken it over. We would have gotten all that oil".

Now, with the strike on Venezuela and the claimed capture of Mr. Maduro, Mr. Trump appears close to achieving his objective. Ms. Machado, the West's favourite Venezuelan politician who could succeed Mr. Maduro should the regime collapse, has already promised to open up Venezuela's oil sector. "We will open all, upstream, midstream, downstream, to all companies," she said on a podcast hosted by Donald Trump Jr., the President's eldest son. She added that the minerals and power sectors would also be opened up for foreign [read American] companies.

THE GIST

- The recently released National Security Doctrine of the Trump administration identifies Latin America and the Caribbean as a strategic priority — a Trump corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
- Venezuela has about 17% of the world's known oil reserves, or more than 300 billion barrels, nearly four times the reserves of the U.S.
- Last month, Mr. Trump demanded Venezuela return all the "stolen American oil, land and assets", in a direct reference to Venezuela's nationalisation of its oil resources

Enigmatic mayor

Balendra Shah

The rapper-engineer architects his leap into national politics, eyeing the prime ministerial chair as Nepal heads to elections

Sanjeev Satgainya

A known figure. But an unknown character.

That is how many describe Balendra Shah, the current Mayor of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city.

Popularly known as "Balen", the rapper-turned-mayor has now officially made his foray into national politics. Last week, he joined the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), which has projected him as its prime ministerial candidate for the general election slated for March 5.

Until the run-up to the 2022 local elections, when Balen decided to throw his hat into the ring for the highly coveted post of Kathmandu Mayor, he was known largely within a limited circle, mostly among the youth, as a rap singer.

Much of his mayoral campaign played out on social media, particularly Facebook. Running as an independent candidate, Balen was assigned a walking stick as his election symbol. Against expectations, he trounced candidates from established political parties – a feat many summed up with the refrain: Balen beat the parties with the stick.

He rarely gives speeches, avoids interviews, and maintains almost no direct engagement with the public. Instead, he communicates almost exclusively through social media.

In one such instance in September 2023, after a vehicle from his office was stopped during a routine check, Balen wrote on Facebook that he would "burn Singha Durbar," a remark referring to Nepal's central seat of power. He later deleted the post but offered no clarification on the context or intent behind the statement.

REUTERS

Two years later, during the second day of the Gen Z-led protests against corruption, nepotism and misgovernance, several government buildings, including parts of Singha Durbar, were vandalised and set ablaze by demonstrators.

In a Facebook post ahead of the protests, he wrote that he fully supported the cause but would not take to the streets himself, noting that he was not part of Gen Z. It was the 35-year-old Mayor who later urged protest leaders to enter into dialogue with the Nepal Army, which had emerged as the chief negotiator between Gen Z representatives and President Ram Chandra Poudel.

After 19 – later revised to 22 – people died on the first day of the protests on September 8, then Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned the next day. Later that day, in a provocative social media post, Balen wrote, "...the resignation of your murderer has come," as he urged protest groups to "exercise restraint".

Under scrutiny

As protest groups conducted an online vote to select a consensus candidate to lead a civilian government, Balen endorsed Sushila Karki, a former Chief Justice. President Poudel subsequently appointed her as Prime Minister on September 12. Ms. Karki dissolved Parliament immediately after taking the oath.

In the past three years, his performance as Kathmandu Mayor has increasingly come under scrutiny. Critics point to his high-handed approach toward street vendors and landless squatters. Meanwhile, basic civic challenges, such as drinking water and waste management, remain unresolved.

His agreement last week with Rabi Lamichhane, the RSP chief, following days of negotiations, surprised many. The two are sharply contrasting figures: Balen is reclusive, while Mr. Lamichhane is gregarious. Only days after the Gen Z protests, Balen had lashed out on Facebook using expletives against all political parties, including the RSP.

How an off-standish Balen would fare in national politics – which demands public engagement, negotiation, and compromise – has yet to be tested. His strength largely rests on personal mystique, which he may not be able to maintain once he starts going to the hustings.

As someone who won independently, Balen did not have a party, and forming a new political outfit with elections just two months away would have been an uphill task. Mr. Lamichhane's offer to join his party, the RSP – which already has an organisational base – and become the prime ministerial face was too good to resist, analysts say.

Since the deal last week, Balen – mostly seen donning a black blazer over a T-shirt, with black shades a permanent fixture – has not made a single public appearance, even as speculation about his resignation as mayor circulates.

For now, Balen remains what he has long been: a familiar face, but a sphinx-like enigma.

The junta in civilian clothing

USDP

The party in Myanmar functions as a strategic instrument of the junta within a multi-party system where the military retains ultimate power through constitutional guarantees

Srinivasan Ramani

Five years after staging a military coup that overturned the 2020 election results and imprisoned elected leaders, including National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint, Myanmar's junta is now attempting to legitimise its rule through elections. The poll has been denounced as a sham by the international community, with the regime's allies – Russia, Belarus and neighbouring China – sending observers to lend it credibility.

The first phase of the poll was held on December 28, 2025, with the remaining two scheduled for early and late January. However, these polls cover only about half of Myanmar's territory, with the rest beyond the junta's reach due to the ongoing civil war involving the NLD-led National Unity Government's Bamar-dominated People's Defence Forces and ethnic armed organisations across the country.

In results that were a foregone conclusion, the military's proxy Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) claimed victory in nearly 80% of contested seats. The USDP fielded over 1,000 candidates, far exceeding its closest rivals' tallies. Meanwhile, the NLD, which won landslide victories in 2015 and 2020, was deregistered along with 40 other parties. Collectively, they had won 90% of legislative seats in 2020.

AP

Aiding the USDP's dominance was the junta's introduction of a proportional representation system, replacing the first-past-the-post method that had delivered the NLD's sweeping victories. This allows the USDP to secure seats even with minimal popular support, over and above the 25% of parliamentary seats reserved for military appointees under the 2008 Constitution.

The USDP's origins lie in the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), established by Senior General Than Shwe in September 1993, just months after the regime convened a National Convention to draft Myanmar's future constitution. Than Shwe, who ruled Myanmar from 1992 to 2011, had come to power after the junta negated the NLD's triumph in multi-party elections in 1990. Officially a social organisation aimed at "national development" and "ethnic amity", the USDA was, in reality, designed to be the military's civilian arm. The USDA functioned as an organisation that conducted and promoted business under the junta's patronage.

In 2010, following the institution of a new constitution in 2008, the USDA transformed into the USDP just before elections that would bring a quasi-civilian government to power. Ex-general Thein Sein was elected president in polls boycotted by the NLD and widely derided as rigged. In genuinely contested elections in 2015 and 2020, however, the USDP suffered humiliating defeats, losing even in its stronghold of the national capital, Naypyitaw.

Strategic instrument

In a way, the USDP is a successor to the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) that ruled Myanmar under a one-party dictatorship led by Ne Win following a military coup in 1962. The BSPP was inseparable from the state and collapsed in 1988 following the popular 8888 uprising. The military seized power again through a coup, and ruled until 2011 with Than Shwe as leader.

The USDP, in contrast to the BSPP, functions as a strategic instrument within a multi-party system while the military retains ultimate power through constitutional guarantees. If the USDP loses, the military doesn't collapse; it simply uses other mechanisms to maintain control, as demonstrated by the 2021 coup. Also, unlike the BSPP's "secular" and "socialist" pretensions, the USDP seeks legitimacy in an ideological blend of Bamar and Buddhist nationalism, by aligning with radical monastic groups like MaBaTha against perceived foreign and minority threats.

The USDP's current leader is U Khin Yi, a former senior military officer and police chief who also served as immigration minister in Thein Sein's government. Khin Yi conducted a series of pro-military rallies before the February 2021 coup, following the junta's false claim that the NLD's victory was due to fraud.

The party's candidate list for the current election is packed with generals and former ministers. The USDP now appears to be a vehicle to transition junta leader Min Aung Hlaing into a civilian presidency, providing a legal veneer to end the state of emergency declared after the coup.

BANGKOK

Military-backed party leads in early election results in Myanmar

AFP

Myanmar's military-appointed election body has begun announcing the winners of the first phase of its three-part general election, saying that the military-backed party has won the majority of seats, as widely expected. The Union Election Commission said on Saturday that USDP won 38 seats in the 330-seat lower house. AP

PHNOM PENH

Cambodia demands Thailand withdraw troops, a week into truce

AFP

Cambodia called on neighbouring Thailand on Saturday to pull out its forces from areas Phnom Penh claims as its own, one week since a truce halted deadly clashes. The Thai army has rejected claims it had used force to seize Cambodia territory, insisting its forces were present in areas that had always belonged to Thailand. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan backs China's mediation claim during Operation Sindoor

REUTERS

Pakistan has backed China's claim that Beijing played a role in defusing tension with India during Operation Sindoor, calling it "diplomacy for peace" that was part of international efforts. India consistently maintained that there is no place for any third-party intervention in matters relating to India and Pakistan. PTI

DHAKA

Thirteen NCP leaders resign over alliance with Jamaat in Bangladesh

REUTERS

Thirteen central leaders of the student-led National Citizen Party (NCP) have resigned in the last eight days over its alliance with the Jamaat-e-Islami ahead of the elections in Bangladesh in February, a report said. Despite the objections, Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman officially announced the alliance with the NCP last week. PTI

Trump says U.S. to 'run' Venezuela, oil firms to head into the country

President states that a designated group, including Cabinet officials, would oversee management of South American nation; he indicates potential deployment of U.S. troops; he also dismisses Nobel Prize winner Machado as potential interim leader

Agence France-Presse
PALM BEACH

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States will "run" Venezuela and tap its huge oil reserves after snatching leftist leader Nicolas Maduro out of the country during a bombing raid on Caracas.

Mr. Trump's announcement came hours after a lightning attack in which special forces grabbed Mr. Maduro and his wife, while air strikes pounded multiple sites, stunning the capital city.

Mr. Trump did not go into detail what he meant but told a press meet in Florida: "We're going to be running it with a group."

Taking control: Donald Trump, alongside Marco Rubio, left, and Pete Hegseth, speaks to the press in Florida on Saturday. AFP

"We're designating people," he said, mentioning that Cabinet officials standing with him would be in charge.

In another surprise, Mr. Trump indicated that U.S. troops could be deployed in Venezuela.

The U.S. is "not afraid of boots on the ground", he said.

Although the operation is being framed as a law-enforcement action, Mr. Trump made clear that regime change and Venezuela's oil riches are the major goals.

"We're going to have our very large United States oil companies, the biggest anywhere in the world, go in, spend billions of dollars, fix the badly broken infrastructure," he said. "We'll be selling large amounts of oil," he said.

Mr. Trump said the assault began with a partial blackout caused by U.S. "expertise".

U.S.-backed Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year, posted on social media: "the hour of freedom has arrived."

But Mr. Trump scotched any expectation that Ms. Machado should emerge as Venezuela's new leader. She doesn't have "support or respect" there, he said.

The top U.S. military officer, General Dan Caine, said 150 aircraft took part in the operation, supporting troops helicoptering in to seize Mr. Maduro with the help of months of intelligence into the leader's daily habits – down to "what he ate" and what pets he kept.

Mr. Maduro, 63, and his wife "gave up" without a struggle and there was "no loss of U.S. life," he said.

Troops deployed to border with Venezuela: Colombia

Agence France-Presse
BOGOTÁ

Colombian President Gustavo Petro said on Saturday he ordered the deployment of military forces to the Venezuelan border, following U.S. strikes that, according to Donald Trump, ended with the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Mr. Petro described Washington's actions as an "assault on the sovereignty" of Latin America and said they would result in a humanitarian crisis

While proposing that the situation could be resolved through "dialogue," the leftist President said on X that he had also ordered the "deployment of the security forces" to the Venezuelan border.

Mr. Petro made no mention of Mr. Maduro's capture, despite the Venezuelan leader being one of his government's closest allies in the region.

Colombian military personnel deployed in Cucuta, stands guard at the border crossing with Venezuela, on Saturday. AFP

Earlier, the Colombian leader had requested an "immediate" meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the UN to "establish the international legality of the aggression" by the United States.

Colombia holds a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council this year, which led to its call for the body to be convened.

Mr. Petro has been a vocal critic of military deployments ordered by Mr. Trump in the Caribbean to fight alleged drug trafficking vessels. He said in other posts to social media that he had put measures in place to "preserve stability at the border".

'Saudi-backed forces make advances in Yemen's Hadramout'

Agence France-Presse
MUKALLA

Saudi-backed troops on Saturday made advances in Yemen's resource-rich Hadramout province, military officials said, as confrontations between forces backed by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi deepened a rift between the two Gulf allies.

The Saudis and Emiratis have for years supported rival factions in Yemen's fractious government. But a recent offensive by the UAE-backed secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) to capture Hadramout angered Riyadh and left the oil-rich regional powers on a collision course.

In a statement, the military of the Saudi-aligned government announced that "all military and civilian facilities" in Mukalla, the capital of Hadramout province, had "been secured" by Riyadh-backed forces. Earlier, two military officials said they had taken control of Mukalla's principal military base.

Rioters 'must be put in their place', says Khamenei as Iran protests toll touches 10

Associated Press
DUBAI

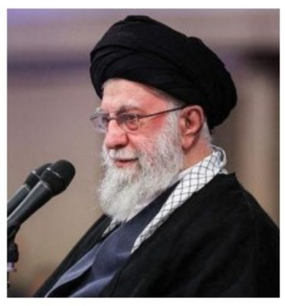
Iran's Supreme Leader insisted on Saturday that "rioters must be put in their place" after a week of protests that have shaken the Islamic Republic, likely giving security forces a green light to aggressively put down the demonstrations.

The first comments by 86-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei come as violence surrounding the demonstrations sparked by Iran's ailing economy has killed at least 10 people. The protests show no sign of stopping and follow U.S. President Donald Trump warning Iran on Friday that if Tehran "violently kills peaceful protesters," the United States "will come to their rescue".

Escalating protests

The protests have become the biggest in Iran since 2022, when the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody triggered nationwide demonstrations.

State television aired the remarks by Mr. Khamenei to an audience in Tehran that sought to separate the concerns of protesting Iranians upset about the rial's collapse from "rioters".



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

"We talk to protesters, the officials must talk to them," Mr. Khamenei said. "But there is no benefit to talking to rioters. Rioters must be put in their place."

He also reiterated a claim constantly made by officials in Iran that foreign powers like Israel or the U.S. were pushing the protests, without offering any evidence. He also blamed "the enemy" for Iran's collapsing rial.

Hard-line officials within the country are believed to have been pushing for a more-aggressive response to the demonstrations as President Masoud Pezeshkian has sought talks to address protesters' demands.

MSF says it may have to cease operations in Gaza Strip in March

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Banned from the Gaza Strip with 36 aid bodies, medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Saturday it will have to end its operations there in March if Israel does not reverse its decision.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Friday for Israel to end a ban on humanitarian agencies that provided aid in Gaza, saying he was "deeply concerned" at the development.

Israel confirmed on Thursday it is barring 37 major international humanitarian organisations from entering the Gaza Strip, accusing them of failing to provide the list of their employees' names, which is now officially required for "security" reasons. MSF called this demand a "scandalous intrusion" but Israel says is needed to stop jihadists from infiltrating into humanitarian structures.

Sport

Nagal faces Prajwal in round one; Aryan starts against Zhukayev

BENGALURU OPEN

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Sumit Nagal will open his Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 125 campaign against wild card and local lad S.D. Prajwal Dev.

At the draw ceremony that was conducted on Saturday, it also emerged that the 28-year-old World No. 277 can potentially meet second seed Harold Mayot of France (No. 163) in the round of 16.

Aryan Shah will start against Kazakhstan's Beibit Zhukayev while Karan Singh - the third Indian to gain a direct entry - will take on Croat Borna Gojo, a Davis Cup winner in 2021.

Big hopes: Nagal will look to begin the new season on a strong note. K.MURALI KUMAR

Even as top seed and World No. 92 Pedro Martinez of Spain drew a qualifier, Dan Evans, a former top-25 player, pulled out. Lloyd Harris, US Open quarterfinalist in 2021, will meet Czechia's Jonas Forejtek.

Indian wildcards in 25-year-old Dhakshineswar Suresh (No. 523) and 17-year-old Manas Dhamne (588) will face Croats Duje Ajdukovic (319) and Matej Dodig (232) respectively.

The qualifying rounds will begin on Sunday with the main draw matches scheduled from Monday.

Gritty Wawrinka leads Switzerland to win over France

UNITED CUP

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Stan Wawrinka launched the final season of his career with a marathon 5-7, 7-6(5), 7-6(5) win to give Switzerland an unassailable 2-0 lead over France at the United Cup on Saturday.

The 40-year-old held off Arthur Rinderknech to join teammate Belinda Bencic as a winner after she began the tie 6-2, 6-4 over Leolia Jeanjean.

Later, the two teamed up to get the better of Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajao and Eduardo Roger-Vasselin in the mixed doubles to make it 3-0. Wawrinka is competing in Perth for the first time in his long career. "After 20 years on the tour it's amazing to finally play here," he said.

Also on Saturday, in Sydney, Zhang Zhizhen led China to a 2-1 win over Belgium.

The results: Group B: China bt Belgium 2-1 (Lin Zhu lost to Elise Mertens 2-6, 2-6; Zhang Zhizen bt Zizou Bergs 6-7(2), 7-6(3), 7-5; Zhu & Zhang bt Mertens & Bergs 5-7, 7-6(5), 10-6).

Group C: Switzerland bt France 3-0 (Belinda Bencic bt Leolia Jeanjean 6-2, 6-2; Stan Wawrinka bt Arthur Rinderknech 5-7, 7-6(5), 7-6(5); Bencic & Wawrkina bt Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajao & Eduardo Roger-Vasselin 6-2, 5-7, 10-2).

AFI announces the qualifying standards for Asian Games

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India on Saturday announced the qualifying standards for 2026 Asian Games, going beyond the Sports Ministry's selection criteria and making it tougher for athletes to book a spot in the event.

AFI spokesman and former president Adille Sumariwalla said the athletes have ample opportunities to peak at the right time and book tickets for the quadrennial event in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

"The AFI will select at least two eligible athletes in each of the events but the selection committee will take a final call on the total strength of the contingent for the Asian Games."

While the ministry guidelines allow for athletes matching the 6th place finish in their event at the previous edition of the games to qualify, the AFI has made stricter norms in certain events including the 200m, 400m, 800m and hurdles. Selection in certain events including 21km race walk and 4x100 mixed relay will be under the purview of the selection committee at a later date.

"We have gone to make things slightly more competitive in certain events. There have been over three months of discussions with coaches both foreign and Indian, athletes and our research team, keeping two things in mind. One, We should not miss a medal and two, we don't want to take any passengers. People might qualify with a mark matching the 6th place finish but if they will have no chance of a medal, they won't be taken. These people often become a liability to the rest of the prospects," Sumariwalla was categorical.

Interestingly, barring the men's 100m, most other marks have been achieved by Indians, although it will now be a matter of doing so in the qualifying period. He added that the qualifying marks had been shared with the ministry. He also revealed that a team from World Athletics would be visiting later this month to evaluate the facilities and possibilities of India hosting the 2028 World U20 Championships and the World Championships in 2031.

ALL SET

Shreyas to play in Mumbai's next couple of Hazare Trophy games

PTI

Having received a conditional clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, Shreyas Iyer will be available for Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy fixtures against Himachal and Punjab. "Shreyas will link up with the team on Sunday and will be playing in the next couple of games," said Mumbai's chief selector Sanjay Patil.

KEEP THE FAITH

Stokes urges England to stick with McCullum despite Ashes defeat

AFP

Ben Stokes has urged the England chiefs to keep faith with Brendon McCullum despite a stinging Ashes defeat. "There is no doubt in my mind that me and Brendon are the right people. I can't see there being someone else who could take this team to even bigger heights. We're both keen on continuing," Stokes said.

DRAWING FIRST BLOOD

Harvansh, Ambrish star as India colts win opening Youth ODI

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Harvansh Pangalia (93), *in pic,* and R.S. Ambrish (65) shone as India u-19 beat South Africa u-19 by 25 runs, via DLS Method, in a rain-affected opening ODI in Benoni. **The scores:** India 301 in 50 overs (Harvansh 93, Ambrish 65, Basson 4/54) bt South Africa 148/4 in 27.4 overs (Van Schalkwyk 60 n.o., Manack 46), via DLS method.

NEW DIMENSION

'Would love to see one bowler getting a fifth over in T20s'

FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

Former umpire Simon Taufel has called for a better balance between bat and ball in T20 cricket, suggesting that one bowler should be allowed to bowl five overs instead of the existing four-over quota. Taufel also said he does not endorse all recent rule changes, including the Impact Player rule and strategic timeouts.

Dragons scrape past Toofans in opener

Prince Deep produces a crucial save in the shootout for the home side; the Hyderabad outfit comes back thrice from behind to force penalties

HIL - MEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Midfielder Mohammed Raheel kept his composure, waited for goalkeeper Jean-Paul Danneburg to commit, and calmly rolled the ball past him to help Tamil Nadu Dragons edge Hyderabad Toofans 4-2 in the shootout after the teams were locked 3-3 at the end of regulation time in the inaugural match of the Men's Hockey India League at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Saturday.

Michel Struthoff and Talwinder Singh missed their attempts for Toofans in the shootout. Dragons' goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh, who replaced an impressive David Harte for the tiebreaker, produced a crucial save to deny Talwinder.

Dragons had raced to a 2-0 lead in the first quarter with two quick goals. Uttam Singh opened the scoring by deflecting in a penalty-corner variation, before Thomas Sorsby produced a brilliant 25-yard run and finished emphatically past the goalkeeper.

Toofans responded through Amandeep Lakra, who struck twice with two clean and precise drag-flicks.

Keeping his cool: Raheel outwits Danneburg to clinch the tie for Dragons. R. RAGU

Striker Selvam Karthi put the host back in the lead with an opportunistic finish, but defender Arthur De Sloover restored parity with a superb goal from a tight angle that caught Harte by surprise.

In the absence of injured drag-flick ace Gonzalo Peillat, the responsibility fell on Amandeep, and the 23-year-old rose to the occasion.

However, Toofans were unable to get going in the shootout. For the Dragons, the foreign contingent played a decisive role across the midfield, defence and attack, delivering key interventions at crucial moments.

The contest was billed as the one between Dragons' fluency in open play against the Toofans' strength in penalty corners, and it lived up to expectation.

The result: Tamil Nadu Dragons 3 (Uttam 4-pc, Sorsby 9, Selvam 32) drew with Hyderabad Toofans 3 (Amandeep 12-pc & 18-pc, De Sloover 37). Dragons won the shootout 4-2.

Back at the helm: Gill had missed the series against the Proteas due to a neck spasm. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Gill returns as captain for ODI series against NZ

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Shubman Gill returns as the ODI captain for India's three-match series against New Zealand while his deputy Shreyas Iyer has also been included – subject to fitness clearance – in the 15-member squad. Mohammed Siraj was recalled after being rested for the two home ODI series earlier in the season.

The squad was announced on Saturday afternoon after the selection committee, in consultation with captain Gill, held a virtual meeting in the morning.

Gill had missed the previous ODI series against South Africa due to a neck spasm.

According to a BCCI statement, Shreyas' "availability is subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI Centre of Excellence." The middle-order batter is on the road to recovery after sustaining a serious abdominal injury during the Australia tour in October last year.

Gill and Shreyas have replaced Ruturaj Gaikwad and Dhruv Jurel from the squad that won the series against South Africa. Tilak Varma has made way for Siraj, with the selectors opting to bolster the pace attack by adding a specialist fast bowler.

Ruturaj was unfortunate to miss out despite scoring a century while batting at No. 4 against the Proteas.

The BCCI release also clarified that Hardik Pandya was not considered for selection as the medical team at the Centre of Excellence has advised against him bowling 10 overs in a match, keeping in mind next month's T20 World Cup.

Siraj, who had been rested following a heavy workload in the Test format, is expected to spearhead the bowling attack as the selectors look to try out combinations ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

Rishabh Pant retains his place, with the selection committee opting to persist with him instead of bringing in Ishan Kishan.

The squad: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Shreyas Iyer* (Vice-capt.), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Nitish Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, and Yashasvi Jaiswal.
(*subject to fitness clearance).

Under Jemimah, Capitals aim to cross the final hurdle

WPL COUNTDOWN

Vivek Krishnan

For three seasons of the Women's Premier League, Delhi Capitals has stayed in the champion's shadow. To reach the final of the showpiece T20 league every year is a testament to the franchise's capability and consistency, but to not be rewarded for it with silverware even once must be difficult to digest.

When the tournament's fourth season commences in Navi Mumbai on January 9, the three-time runner-up will aim to chart a slightly different course that entails finding a way past the final hurdle.

The responsibility of steering DC through this challenge has been entrusted to a new skipper in Jemimah Rodrigues.

With franchises being allowed to retain a maximum of five players prior to November's mega auction, Capitals opted to let go of Australia's Meg Lanning. It has opened the door for Jemimah, who was one of the stars of India's triumphant ODI World Cup campaign in November, to take on the task of leadership for the first time in the WPL.

Having displayed the capacity to perform under pressure during the recent World Cup – her unbeaten 127 in the semifinal against Australia was the cornerstone of India's record chase of 339 – Jemimah seems to be ready to withstand the additional scrutiny that comes with captaincy.

With Lanning's move to UP Warriorz creating a void at the top of the order, it is imperative for South African opener Laura Wolvaardt to settle into her new surroundings in quick time. The 26-year-old was in phenomenal touch during the ODI World Cup where she was the top run-getter (571 in nine innings, including a 101 against India in the final). Wolvaardt's opening partnership with Shafali Verma should make for delightful viewing. Much of DC's fortunes will also depend on South Africa's Marizanne Kapp. Particularly with Australian all-rounder Annabel Sutherland pulling out of the tournament for personal reasons earlier this week, Kapp's ability with bat and ball lends much-needed balance.

Adding robustness to the spin department is Shree Charani. The 21-year-old left-arm spinner will be complemented by off-spinners Sneh Rana and Minnu Mani and leggie Alana King.

Big responsibility: Jemimah will look to swing it Capitals' way this time. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Kapp... Capitals' heavyweight. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Vital cog

Marizanne Kapp: Whether it is as a middle-order batter or as a medium-pacer, Kapp has been an influential presence in the Capitals set-up from the inaugural season. If Delhi is to go all the way, the South African will have to be as influential as she has been in the past

The fourth edition of the WPL will be held from January 9 to February 5

The squad: Jemimah Rodrigues (Capt.), Laura Wolvaardt, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Deeya Yadav, Chinelle Henry, Lizelle Lee, Madiwala Mamatha (wk), Niki Prasad, Shafali Verma, Marizanne Kapp, Lucy Hamilton, Alana King, Sneh Rana, Minnu Mani, Shree Charani, and Nandani Sharma.

Capitals' schedule: Jan. 10: vs Mumbai Indians; **Jan. 11:** Gujarat Giants; **Jan. 14:** UP Warriorz; **Jan. 17:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (all matches at Navi Mumbai); **Jan. 20:** MI; **Jan. 24:** RCB; **Jan. 27:** GG; **Feb. 1:** UPW (all matches at Vadodara). *Matches start at 7.30 p.m.*

Pipers rally to put Soorma on the brink of elimination

HIL - WOMEN

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

On Saturday, the denizens here came together to commemorate the 123rd birth anniversary of Jaipal Singh Munda. A distinguished politician, accomplished sportsman, and visionary leader, Jaipal's legacy endures through the iconic 5,000-seater AstroTurf Stadium in Morabadi that bears his name.

So, probably there could have been no better fitting stage for a night of top-class hockey when JSW Soorma Hockey Club, last year's Women's Hockey India League (HIL) runner-up, was effectively shown the door by the current edition's table-topper SG Pipers. Coach Jude Menezes would have heaved a sigh of relief when Soorma finally dispelled the hex after three games and 24 unsuccessful penalty corners, but his happiness turned out to be shortlived.

Penny Squibb's fiery swipe from the second battery beat Pipers' defender Lola Riera and sounded the boards. But the latter was quick to make amends.

Take a bow! Sunelita is the toast of her teammates after scoring Pipers' third goal. R.V. MOORTHY

A drag-flick from the three-time Olympian in the very next minute clattered into the backboard to take her season tally to three goals – the joint-most alongside Shrachi Bengal Tigers' star Agustina Gorzelany.

Jyoti Singh brought more joy to the high-flying Pipers dugout in the second quarter, dispossessing Shihori Oikawa in front of the goal before burying the ball deep into the net.

Sonam almost equalised in the dying moments of the first half, but the Indian forward's attempt was thwarted by an alert Cristina Cosentino.

The Argentine shot-stopper faced a similar situation in the last quarter when a deft touch by Salima Tete momentarily threatened Pipers' lead.

With 10 minutes to go, Menezes took off goalkeeper Nidhi to have the services of an extra field player.

But the plan backfired, with Sunelita Toppo flying through the right flank to slot the ball into an empty goal and seal Soorma's fate.

The result:
JSW Soorma Hockey Club 1 (Squibb 12) lost to SG Pipers 3 (Riera 13, Jyoti 18, Sunelita 58).

Smith bats away talk of retirement

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Australia skipper Steve Smith said on Saturday he had no end date to call time on his career, while keeping England guessing on how his team will line up for the fifth and final Ashes Test.

With the retirement of Usman Khawaja after the Sydney Test beginning on Sunday and Nathan Lyon out injured, Smith will be the oldest player in the Australian line-up alongside Scott Boland.

Asked if he would still be playing at the next Ashes in England in 2027, the 36-year-old was non-committal, but said he was enjoying his cricket.

"I've said it for a while, I'm taking it day-by-day, series-by-series, and we'll see where things land," said Smith, who has played 122 Tests and scored more than 10,000 runs.

"I feel like I'm doing alright at the moment, I'm enjoying it. So there's no real end date for me.

In terms of Australia's team for Sydney, Smith said everything was on the table with another look at the wicket required.

"Could play a couple of all-rounders, could play a spinner, could play no spinner," he said.

Australia leads the five-Test series 3-1 after eight-wicket wins in Perth and Brisbane, before an 82-run victory in Adelaide ensured they retained the urn. Smith said there was still plenty of motivation with WTC points at stake.

(Match starts at 5 a.m. IST).

WTC points at stake: Smith insists that there will be plenty of motivation for the final Test. AFP

Japan's Susaki is the most expensive buy

PWL AUCTION

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the player auction for the 2026 edition of the Pro Wrestling League here on Saturday, Japan's Yui Susaki emerged as the most expensive buy as she attracted a bid of ₹60 lakh from Haryana Thunders. In the men's section, Poland's Robert Baran was roped in by Maharashtra Kesari for ₹55 lakh.

Wrestlers in the auction pool were classified into four categories: A+, A, B and C.

Among women in category A+, which mandated a base price of ₹18 lakh, Susaki was the most sought-after wrestler.

Antim Panghal was snapped up by UP Dominators for ₹52 lakh in the women's 53 kg category, while Puerto Rico's Ana Godinez fetched ₹46 lakh from Punjab Royals in the 62 kg division.

Delhi Dangal Warriors secured the services of Azerbaijan's Anastasiya Alpayeva for ₹27 lakh in the women's 76 kg category.

Among the men, Sujeet Kalkal, who was in category A, was picked by Delhi Dangal Warriors for ₹52 lakh. Aman Sehrawat, who won bronze in the 2024 Paris Olympics, was acquired by Tigers of Mumbai Dangal for ₹51 lakh.

The fifth season of the league will be held from January 15 to February 1 at the Noida Indoor Stadium. The event, which features six teams, is resuming after a six-year hiatus.

INBRIEF

Vivaan-Naisha duo causes a flutter, enters the u-15 final

Vivaan Dave and Naisha Rewaskar kept their nerve in a thrilling decider to shock top seeds Aditya Das and Ankolika Chakraborty 13-11, 5-11, 11-7, 5-11, 23-21 to reach the under-15 mixed doubles final of the WTT Youth Contender in Vadodara on Saturday. They will meet Reyansh Jalan and Tanishka Kalbhairav, who beat Sanjay Jagdish and Myraa Sangelkar 11-3, 15-13, 11-7. In the under-19 category, the No. 1 duo of P.B. Abhinandh and Ananya Muralidharan beat Ritvik Gupta and Ahona Roy 9-11, 14-12, 11-7, 11-8 and set up a summit clash with Sarthak Arya and Syndrela Das, a 11-6, 12-10, 5-11, 11-5 winner over Sahil Rawat and Hardee Patel.

Pakistan submits provisional squad for T20 WC to ICC

Pakistan has submitted a provisional 15-member squad for the World T20 Cup to the International Cricket Council but is yet to make the list public, a reliable source said. According to the source, the provisional squad includes injured pacer Shaheen Afridi, former captain Babar Azam, and all-rounder Shadab Khan. Young batting sensation Brian Bennett features in a Zimbabwe squad led by Sikandar Raza while Namibia will be helmed by Gerhard Erasmus in what will be the nation's fourth consecutive appearance.

Fell sick over the Christmas holiday period, says Osaka

Naomi Osaka is feeling under the weather at the United Cupin Perth. After losing her first match for Japan against Greece's Maria Sakkari on Friday, Osaka said she got "really sick" over the Christmas holiday period and wasn't operating at 100% during the 6-4, 6-2 loss. "I have been dealing with some health stuff, so I'm kind of just happy to be out here right now," Osaka said.

Gujarat in command against Karnataka

Gujarat moved to a commanding position against Karnataka on the third day of its BCCI Cooch Behar (under-19) Trophy quarterfinal at Valsad on Saturday.

The scores: Gujarat 451 and 178/2 in 41 overs (Malay Shah 82 n.o., Purav Pujara 59 n.o.) vs. Karnataka 280 in 106.2 overs (Varun Patel 52).

LIVE TELECAST

HIL: Women: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3 p.m. & Men: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
The Ashes: 5th Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 5 a.m. (Monday)

Ton-up Rohan, Samson help Kerala ease past Jharkhand

The openers' knocks eclipse a well-paced hundred by Kushagra; Rajasthan's Ashok and Manav strike at regular intervals to derail TN's chase; Padikkal's century helps Karnataka crush Tripura

HAZARE TROPHY

M.R. Praveen Chandran
AHMEDABAD

Running riot: Samson and Rohan tore into the Jharkhand attack. VIJAY SONEJI

Much as the Jharkhand batting evokes awe, its bowling sometimes is insipid and underwhelming as made out by Kerala opening batters Rohan S. Kunnummal 124 (78b, 8x4, 11x6) and Sanju Samson 101 (95b, 9x4, 3x6) who smashed centuries to propel their side to an eight-wicket win in the Vijay Hazare Group 'A' Elite match here on Saturday.

The target of 312 was chased comfortably as Rohan and Samson tore into the Jharkhand attack to add 212 runs for the first wicket. After the openers left, B. Aparajith (41 n.o.) and Vishnu Vinod (40 n.o.) completed the formalities in the 43rd over.

The whirlwind centuries from the openers, eclipsed a well-paced knock from Kumar Kushagra 143 not out (137b, 8x4, 7x6). Kushagra added 176 runs with Anukul Roy 72 (72b 4x4, 3x6) for the fifth wicket as Jharkhand recovered from 111 for four in the 21st over to post a challenging total of 311.

However, Rohan and Samson killed the contest in the powerplay with their blazing start. Rohan was the enforcer, striking the medium pacers through the line for score boundaries and sixes in the powerplay. Samson, after a circumspect start, found his range and played the spinners pretty well in the middle overs to turn the chase into a breeze.

Tamil Nadu collapsed dramatically against Rajasthan to suffer its fourth defeat of the tournament by falling short of 10 runs. Chasing a modest target of 226, Tamil Nadu was cruising when openers S.R. Athish 54 (50b, 4x4, 3x6) and N. Jagadeesan 71 (52b, 13x4) added 121 for the first wicket.

However, medium-pacer Ashok Sharma (five for 58) and left-arm spinner Manav Suthar (three for 44) picked up wickets regularly as Tamil Nadu slipped to 190 for eight. Washington Sundar (36) and Varun Chakaravarthy (6) figured in a 25-run ninth wicket stand to raise hopes. But an inspired bowling change saw Deepak Hooda dismiss Varun and Khaleel Ahmed gave Rajasthan a memorable win by snaring Sundar.

The Karnataka juggernaut rolled on as the champion crushed Tripura by 80 runs. Devdutt Padikkal smashed another century 108 (120b, 8x4, 3x6) and Abhinav Manohar 73 not out (43b, 6x4, 4x6) finished majestically as Karnataka piled up 332 for seven. Tripura was never in the hunt after collapsing to 59 for five but managed to score 252 through Swanpil Singh's 100 (93b, 7x4, 2x6).

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY — SATURDAY'S SCORES

Group A (Ahmedabad):
Jharkhand 311/7 in 50 overs (Kumar Kushagra 143 n.o., Anukul Roy 72, M.D. Nidheesh 4/46) lost to Kerala 313/2 in 42.3 overs (Sanju Samson 101, Rohan Kunnummal 124, B. Aparajith 41 n.o., Vishnu Vinod 40 n.o.).
Karnataka 332/7 in 50 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 108, R. Smaran 60, Abhinav Manohar 73 n.o., Abhijith Sarkar 4/50) bt Tripura 252 in 49 overs (Rajat Dey 66, Swapnil Singh 100).
Madhya Pradesh 228 in 49.5 overs (Shubham Sharma 47, Akshat Raghuwanshi 73, Aryan Pandey 46) lost to Pondicherry 229/6 in 43 overs (Ajay Rohera 41, S. Parameeswaran 65, Aman Khan 59 n.o.).
Rajasthan 225 in 46.5 overs (Deepak Hooda 70, Manav Suthar 43, Varun Chakaravarthy 4/25) bt Tamil Nadu 215 in 41.4 overs (S.R. Athish 54, N. Jagadeesan 71, Ashok Sharma 5/58).
Group B (Rajkot): Bengal 302/7 in 50 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 102, Shahbaz Ahmed 66 n.o.) bt Assam 217 in 42.1 overs (Sumit Ghadigaonkar 40, Denish Das 43).
Hyderabad 286/9 in 50 overs (Tilak Varma 109, Abhirath Reddy 71) bt Chandigarh 150 in 37.4 overs (Sanyam Saini 46).
Uttar Pradesh 322/5 in 48 overs (Dhruv Jurel 55, Priyam Garg 54, Rinku Singh 41, Sameer Rizvi 80 n.o.) bt Jammu & Kashmir 264/8 in 48 overs (Shubham Khajuria 60, Yawer Hassan 85 n.o.).
Baroda 293/9 in 50 overs (Hardik Pandya 133, Yash Thakur 4/64) lost to Vidarbha 296/1 in 41.4 overs (Atharva Taide 65, Aman Mokhade 150 n.o., Dhruv Shorey 65 n.o.).
Group C (Jaipur): Maharashtra 366/4 in 50 overs (Prithvi Shaw 71, Arshin Kulkarni 114, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, Ramakrishna Ghosh 64 n.o.) bt Mumbai 238 in 42 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 92, Siddhesh Lad 52).
Himachal 320/8 in 50 overs (Innesh Mahajan 95, Pukhraj Mann 134) lost to Chhattisgarh 321/7 in 49.4 overs (Ayush Pandey 78, Amandeep Khare 72).
Sikkim 75 in 22.2 overs (Arshdeep Singh 5/34) lost to Punjab 81/0 in 6.2 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 53 n.o.).
Goa 270 in 49.1 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 105, Abhinav Tejrana 54) lost to Uttarakhand 274/3 in 46.2 overs (Shashwat Dangwal 70 n.o., Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 115 n.o.).
Group D (Bengaluru): Services 178 in 42.5 overs (Harshit Rana 4/47) lost to Delhi 182/2 in 19.4 overs (Priyansh Arya 72 n.o., Rishabh Pant 67 n.o.).
Saurashtra 294/8 in 50 overs (Gajjar Sammar 147) bt Railways 263 in 49.1 overs (Upendra Yadav 86, Ashutosh Sharma 65).
Odisha 305/9 in 50 overs (Swastik Samal 101, Govinda Poddar 77, Biplab Samantray 47) lost to Haryana 309/6 in 48.4 overs (Parth Vats 157 n.o., Anuj Thakral 59 n.o.).
Gujarat 318/9 in 50 overs (Axar Patel 130, Vishal Jayswal 70, Satyanarayana Raju 4/53) bt Andhra 311/7 in 50 overs (C. Gnaneshwar 102, S.D.N.V. Prasad 48 n.o.).
Plate (Ranchi): Mizoram 258 in 45.4 overs (Joseph Lalthankhuma 61, Codanda Ajit Karthik 73) lost to Bihar 262/5 in 34.1 overs (Ayush Loharuka 40, Bipin Saurabh 95, Kumar Rajnish 71 n.o.).
Meghalaya 238 in 45 overs (Kush Agarwal 47, Jaskirat Singh Sachdeva 74, Kishan Singha 5/68) lost to Manipur 241/7 in 43.3 overs (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 77, Johnson Singh 48).
Arunachal Pradesh 244/6 in 50 overs (Techi Doria 55, Nabam Kama 54, Devdatta Natu 56 n.o., Kamsha Yangfo 42) lost to Nagaland 245/1 in 39.2 overs (Joshua Ozukum 140 n.o., Dega Nischal 73 n.o.).

Gill. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Gill will play for Punjab against Goa, says coach

Shayan Acharya
JAIPUR

Shubman Gill's return to domestic cricket was delayed as the India international missed out on Punjab's Vijay Hazare Trophy fixture against Sikkim on Saturday due to illness.

"Shubman was not feeling too well, so he was advised to take rest," said Punjab coach Sandeep Sharma. He made it clear that Gill will be available for the next fixture against Goa on Tuesday.

TN men, Railways women will look to defend their titles

BASKETBALL

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Defending champions Tamil Nadu (men) and Indian Railways (women) head the field for the 75th senior National basketball championship to be held at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here from January 4 to 11.

The championship – to be played in a league cum knockout format – will see 34 men's and 31 women's teams participate.

The teams are divided into Level 1 (top 10 teams) and the rest in Level 2. The quarterfinals will begin on January 9. The winner will take home ₹5 lakh while the runner-up and third place will get ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh respectively.

The Groupings: Men: Level 1: Group A: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Services, Rajasthan, Gujarat. **B:** Punjab, Indian Railways, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh. **Level 2: Group C:** Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, and West Bengal; **D:** Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand; **E:** Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Tripura; **F:** Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana; **G:** Andaman & Nicobar, Nagaland, Sikkim;. **H:** Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Puducherry. **Women: Level 1: Group A:** Indian Railways Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka. **B:** Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal. **Level 2: C:** Punjab, Goa, Haryana, Tripura, Uttarakhand; **D:** Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana. **E:** Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim; **F:** Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry; **G:** Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha.

Gukesh pulls out of Tata Steel Chess due to personal reasons

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Out & in: With Gukesh not playing, Nihal gets a chance. FIDE

World champion D. Gukesh has pulled out of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament, to be held in Kolkata from January 7 to 11, due to personal reasons.

"Due to personal reasons, D. Gukesh will be unable to participate in Tata Steel Chess India this year," the organisers of the rapid and blitz event said on social media. Nihal Sarin will replace compatriot Gukesh in the tournament, the organisers announced.

Anand returns

The event will see the return of five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand as a player, after being the ambassador over the last few years.

The other Indians in the fray in the men's section are: R. Pragganandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and Aravindh Chithambaram.

Wesley So, Wei Yi, Volodar Murzin and Hans Niemann complete the line-up.

In the women's section, the focus would be on World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh.

Along with her, R. Vaishali, D. Harika, Vantika Agrawal, and Rakshitta Ravi form the Indian challenge in the tournament which also features Aleksandra Goryachkina, Kateryna Lagno, Nana Dzagnidze, Carissa Yip and Stavroula Tsolakido.

The rapid event will be played from January 7 to 9 followed by the blitz on January 10 and 11.

Meenakshi, Jaismine, Hitesh to headline Natl. Boxing Championships

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Most of the top Indian pugilists will be in action when the Elite men's and women's national boxing championships, delayed by a few days due to adverse pollution conditions, finally kicks off at the Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida from Saturday.

Among those will be recently-crowned World Champions Meenakshi and Jaismine Lamboria, two-time former world champion Nikhat Zareen, Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain, Nitu Ghanghas and Pooja Rani besides others in women's section. Among men, World Boxing Cup gold medallists Hitesh Gulia and Sachin Siwach, Abhinash Jamwal, Amit Panghal and veteran Shiva Thapa will headline the competition.

This is the first time men's and women's events are being held simultaneously at the same venue. The week-long event, will see participation from 600 boxers across 10 weight categories each in men and women.

The BFI has announced that all medallists in Olympic weight categories and finalists from non-Olympic ones would be included in the national camp post the tournament. Newly appointed women's head coach Santiago Nieva is also expected to be present at the event.

"The upcoming Nationals provides both established boxers and youngsters a platform to stake claim in the national team ahead of the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games," BFI president Ajay Singh said.

Villa fells struggling Forest; Leao fires Milan to the top of Serie A

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BIRMINGHAM

Smart work: McGinn makes the most of a goalkeeping blunder to score Villa's third past Victor. REUTERS

Aston Villa beat struggling Nottingham Forest 3-1 at home on Saturday to ease the pain of its midweek mauling by Arsenal, leapfrogging Manchester City into second place in the Premier League.

Ollie Watkins' strike on the cusp of half-time gave Unai Emery's side a deserved lead and John McGinn grabbed a second early in the second period.

Morgan Gibbs-White pulled a goal back for the visitors but McGinn took advantage of a brain freeze by Forest goalkeeper John Victor to restore Villa's two-goal lead.

Villa's 11-game winning streak in all competitions was brought to a shuddering halt with a 4-1 defeat at the Emirates on Tuesday, raising doubts about its ability to maintain a title charge.

But its impressive record at Villa Park remains intact – it has now won 11 straight matches since a 3-0 defeat to Crystal Palace in August.

The win leaves Villa on 42 points, three behind leader Arsenal, and one ahead of City. Forest remains one place above the relegation zone.

Rafael Leao fired AC Milan top of Serie A with a tight 1-0 win at Cagliari on Friday.

Adrien Rabiot set up Leao who fired past Elia Caprile after 50 minutes in Sardinia.

Milan moved two points ahead of Inter Milan which hosts Bologna on Sunday with third-placed Napoli at Lazio.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 3 (Watkins 45+1, McGinn 49, 73) bt Nottingham Forest 1 (Gibbs-White 61).

On Friday: LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 1 (De Frutos 45+1) drew with Getafe 1 (Arambarri 90).

Serie A: Cagliari 0 lost to AC Milan 1 (Leao 50).

Ajay and Jonathan shine in Natl. shooting

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Army shooter Ajay Kumar clinched the men's 10m air pistol gold while Karnataka's Jonathan Gavin Antony swept the sub-youth, youth and junior titles in the National shooting championships here on Saturday.

Ajay finished on top with a score of 241.1, edging out Railways' Shubham Bisla (240.1) after a closely-fought final. Haryana's Anmol Jain secured bronze with 220.0.

The youth men's final saw Jonathan produce a composed performance to top the field with a score of 240.0. Punjab's Guntajpreet Singh secured silver with 236.0, while Uttar Pradesh's Savej Khan claimed bronze (214.3). Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu edged past Madhya Pradesh 36-35 to clinch the senior trap mixed team gold. Prithviraj Tondaiman scored 19, while Nilaa Rajaa Baalu contributed 17 in the win.

In the junior trap mixed team gold-medal match, Tamil Nadu claimed the title defeating Haryana 39-35. Yugan S.M. (22) and Tanisska Senthilkumar (17) were on target for TN.

The bronze match saw Uttar Pradesh overcome Rajasthan 41-36.

The results: 10m air pistol: Men: 1. Ajay Kumar (Army) 241.1 points, 2. Shubham Bisla (Railways) 240.1, 3. Anmol Jain (Har) 220.0.
Youth: 1. Jonathan Gavin Antony (Kar) 240.0, 2. Guntajpreet Singh (Pun) 236.0, 3. Savej Khan (UP) 214.3.
Junior: 1. Jonathan 240.5, Shiva Narwal (Har) 240.3, 3. Yogesh Kumar (Raj) 218.2.
Trap: Mixed team: Senior: Final: Tamil Nadu 36 bt Madhya 35. **Bronze:** Rajasthan 42 bt Haryana 37.
Junior: Final: Tamil Nadu 39 bt Haryana 35. **Bronze:** Uttar Pradesh 41 bt Rajasthan 36.